

Monday 12 February - 5:15pm

SG1 Ground Floor, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT

[Natalia Milanesio](#) (UCL Institute of the Americas (2023-2024), University of Houston)

El destape: A History of Sexuality in Argentina's Transition to Democracy

How did the restoration of democracy in 1983, after years of repression and censorship, transform sexuality and representations and ideas about sexuality? This talk answers this question by examining the unparalleled sexualization of Argentine culture and society after the fall of the last military dictatorship that contemporaries called the *destape*. Omnipresent, sex was not only about fantasies and indulgence, but was also imbued with a myriad of social, political, and cultural positive meanings—including citizenship, social progress, national development, and modernity. These meanings made sexual culture into a powerful metaphor for democracy and the reconstruction of Argentine society.

Natalia Milanesio is a professor of Modern Latin American History at the University of Houston. She is the author of *Destape: Sex, Democracy, and Freedom in Postdictatorial Argentina* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019) and *Workers Go Shopping in Argentina: The Rise of Popular Consumer Culture* (University of New Mexico, 2013). Spanish translations of both books were published by Siglo XXI. She has published in leading journals in the field, including the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Gender and History*, the *Journal of Women's History*, and the *Journal of Social History*. Her last book has received important awards in the discipline including the CLAH (Conference on Latin American History) Bolton-Johnson Prize, the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Southern Cone Section Best Book in the Humanities, and the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) Judy Ewell Award for Best Publication on Women's History. She is currently a Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor at UCL Institute of the Americas.