Wednesday, April 15
5:30-7:00pm, Room 201 International Center

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Stories of Survival:
Women’s Testimonies of State Terrorism in Argentina

The past lives in the present, and traumatic pasts still throb and ache. This is often true for individuals and societies, as memories of war, displacement, genocide, and political repression are not easily stored away. Their painful edges defy forgetting, calling attention to the many ways in which traumatic legacies shape and erupt in present circumstances. At stake are not only the life-worlds of people who directly experienced unbearable loss and unspeakable suffering, but also the broader society’s ability to learn, rebuild, and change. The recent history of state terrorism in Argentina—specifically during the last military dictatorship (1976-1983)—is a case in point. Survivors of such political repression have key stories to tell, yet their voices have not always been heard. As feminist scholars and activists note, this has been particularly the case for women, as aspects of their experiences became virtually unspeakable and inaudible. The project “Stories of Survival” directly engages the testimonies of women who survived state terrorism. What do these voices reveal about the nature of state violence and its relation to gender and power? What might we learn about survival and resistance, about social healing and recovery, and about collective memory and transmission when women survivors’ experiences are taken into account?

Barbara Sutton is an Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University at Albany. Her scholarly interests include globalization, body politics, human rights, and women's movements, particularly in Latin American contexts.

This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen)