



# Political Participation in “Post-Conflict” Colombia:

Social Movements, Community Radio and the Challenge of Implementing

the 2016 Government-FARC Peace Accords in the Countryside

**Thursday, April 19 • 4:00 pm • Hibben Center**

**Mario A. Murillo, Hofstra University**



Point two of the six-point peace agreement signed by the Government of Juan Manuel Santos and rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, focused on political participation as an important pre-requisite for building a lasting peace in a post-conflict Colombia. Along with providing security guarantees for leaders of social movements and representatives of the political opposition, the peace accords also emphasized the important role of community radio as an essential tool for citizens to engage in the construction of a democratic culture, particularly in areas hardest hit by the fifty-plus years of armed conflict. In this presentation, I will explore the state of community radio in Colombia within the context of the “post-conflict period,” and project it against other aspects of the peace accords that have faced major obstacles in their implementation in the period since it was signed.

Murillo is professor of communication and Latin American Studies at Hofstra University. As a journalist, radio documentarian, writer, and researcher, he has focused much of his attention on the cultural and social role public interest, community-oriented radio plays in local and national contexts, and considers citizens’ media to be a fundamental tool of cultural affirmation, artistic expression, civic engagement, and political participation, all of which are underlying themes of his current project, the manuscript *Voices of Resistance: Indigenous Media and the Struggle for Justice in Colombia*. He is the author of *Colombia and the United States: War, Unrest and Destabilization* (Seven Stories, 2004) and *Islands of Resistance: Puerto Rico, Vieques and U.S. Policy* (Seven Stories, 2001), in addition to countless essays, articles, and radio reports and documentaries.

Special Note: An information fair will take place in the Hibben Atrium before and after the talk, from 3:00-4:00 pm and again from 5:00-5:30 pm.



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