Grua O'Connell Research Award Application

Location: Zacatecas, Mexico
Title: Testimonies and Journalism, a Reconstruction of Zacatecas's Historical Consciousness and Collective Memory Mid a War Against Narcotics.
By Edwin Sanchez Huizar
Faculty Sponsor: Professor Nadía Celis and Germán Cárdenas Alaminos

In December of 2021, I spent 4 weeks in Zacatecas collecting oral histories among my family and friends and observing the social dynamics around the presence of drug trafficking in my hometown. That following semester, in an Independent Study, I with Professor Germán Cárdenas Alaminos to interpret that material to understand how drug trafficking has come to transform the production, identification, and reproduction of culture and identity in rural Mexico. In December of 2022, the Grua allowed me to return to Zacatecas to consult photographic and press archives to ground my familial and communal experience in the context of society-wide trends that local newspapers have documented. In Mexico, newspapers, photographs, and

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