'From La Adelita to Narco-Corridos;' The Changing face of Corridos in Twentieth Century Mexico 1910-2000

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Abstract:
The corrido or (revolutionary/political) ballad is a major focus of academic and popular discourse on popular culture in Mexico. Whatever its origins (and there are extensive debates over this) the classic period of the corrido is understood as covering the years 1910-1925 - the epic phase of the Mexican revolution. Yet the corrido has been appropriated in non-epic settings. As a form of everyday comment on political, social, economic and cultural issues corridos have been composed and sung to comment on such events as strikes, peasant conflicts, smuggling and, more recently, the drug trafficking exploits of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the period after 1970. The paper will examine the many ways in which the corrido has been appropriated and will examine the argument that the corrido is particularly a phenomenon of the marginalized and subaltern and represents a 'voice for the voiceless'.