The legacies of Peru’s “internal armed conflict” (1980–2000) between Maoist Shining Path insurgents and the government continue to haunt the country’s present. Among the many recent efforts to grapple with that past, José Carlos Agüero’s The Surrendered – a bestseller in Peru when it first appeared in 2015 – is one of the most thought-provoking. The son of two Shining Path militants, Agüero reflects on his parents’ militancy in a fragmented, moving, and at times lyrical memoir, newly translated into English by Charles Walker and Michael Lazzara. At this event, the author and Prof. Walker will be in conversation, followed by comments from Princeton political scientist Deborah Yashar and the New York-based Peruvian historian Renzo Aroni.

José Carlos Agüero is an essayist, poet, and public intellectual as well as the author and co-editor of several books in Spanish. His book Persona won the 2018 National Literature Prize for non-fiction in Peru. He collaborates on the podcast La Oruga.

Charles F. Walker is Professor of History and Director of the Hemispheric Institute on the Americas at the University of California, Davis. He is the author of several books, including the award-winning The Tupac Amaru Rebellion (2014). He is currently working on a book about the Shining Path insurgency.