In 1864, cameras present in the war against Paraguay registered for the first time an international conflict within Latin America. Since then, war pictures have, without exception, shocked the public opinion by showcasing piles of dead bodies, amputees, ruins of buildings, and cities burned down. Contrary to evoking national and patriotic sentiments in the public opinion, photographic images have deeply questioned the Nation-State’s violence in the region. Beginning with the war against Paraguay [1864-1870], through attacks to indigenous communities such as the so-called Conquest of the Dessert in the Patagonia [1878-1885], to the War of the Pacific [1864-1866] and the Chaco War [1932-35], my project aims to explore and recount a history of war photography in Latin America during the long 19th century. In this talk, he offers a series of reflections on the circulation of pictures in war time and their circulation today as part of the war archive in contemporary book collections.

Sebastian Díaz-Duhalde, PhD is an associate professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Dartmouth College. He is a member of the Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies Program. He works on 19th-century Latin American visual culture, literature, and media studies. He published several articles about visual representations of war and state violence in Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil. His book La última guerra. Cultura visual de la Guerra contra Paraguay (2015) appeared as part of the collection on Latin American visual studies by the Area of Visual Anthropology of the Universidad de Buenos Aires and the Universitat de Barcelona. The book won the 2016 award for best book in the humanities in the Southern Cone section of the Latin American Studies Association. He is currently working on the history of war photography in the Latin-American 19th century.

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