

# The H. Wiley Hitchcock Institute for Studies in American Music

In collaboration with the the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities and the  
American Studies Program at Brooklyn College

Fall 2017

## Music in Polycultural America

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### Tamar Barzel

#### Panic in Mexico City: *Atrás del Cosmos*, Free Improvisation, and Experimental Theater, 1964–1983

Tamar Barzel is currently Assistant Research Scholar at New York University Division of Libraries. Her talk will concern the ensemble *Atrás del Cosmos* (Behind the Cosmos), which a Mexico-City based music critic described in 1977 as “the purest expression of our present moment.” A pioneering free improvisation collective, *Atrás del Cosmos* occupies a singular place in the history of music in Mexico. Using archival photographs and rare audio recordings, this presentation will trace the story of this remarkable ensemble, which emerged during a period of political and creative upheaval in twentieth-century Mexico City.



*Atrás del Cosmos*, Mexico City, c. 1976. Image courtesy of Ana Ruiz.

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Monday, 13 November at 2:15pm  
Tanger Auditorium, Brooklyn College Library  
**Free and Open to the Public**

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For more information, visit [www.hisam.org](http://www.hisam.org),  
call us at 718-951-5655, or email us at [hisam@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:hisam@brooklyn.cuny.edu)