Among the most repressed and silenced aspects of daily life under Franco were women’s sexuality and moral standards relating to sexuality, a theme palpable in numerous novels by women writers. While abuse is rarely explicitly denounced, the effects on the victim are unequivocally depicted. A number of writers of lesser fame and, in particular, those who also wrote novelas rosas, have written novels documenting rape, incest and assault. It is significant - as it serves to confirm the authenticity of this reality - that novelists of right-wing leanings, actively supportive of the regime, record similar experiences to those writers from less conservative backgrounds. This talk will provide a short introduction to the historical and social circumstances of the period and discuss the importance of post-war women’s literary production. The main focus will be on the portrayal of the sexual repression, exploitation and abuse of women.

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