For decades, organized crime has been cast as the ‘anti-state’ by Mexican politicians, deflecting blame for the state’s failure to combat organized crime. In fiction, this has translated into the misleading representation of kingpins and cartels as political challengers to the constitutional state. These narratives have ignored such ‘secondary’ citizens as women and young adults. This talk examines fictions which do feature such characters to demonstrate how they appear capable of confronting the state hoax to unearth the truth of Mexico’s political landscape and repair the social fabric of communities.