The verb acuerpar — literally, to give the body — has emerged as a central political term in the vocabulary of feminist resistance in Latin America. It names the collective and quotidian actions that bodies take to hold space for each other in the face of rampant gendered and racialized violence. Against forms of solidarity that rely on a language of empathic identification — putting oneself in another’s shoes — and that often collude with colonial projects, acuerpar indexes a form of political action that calls us to stand side by side in our own shoes.

In this talk, Méndez argues for the importance of centering acuerpar in feminist praxis. She does so by reflecting on the embodied support that took place at a feminist encampment in Honduras demanding justice for the Indigenous Lenca leader Berta Cáceres.