Gender, Migration, Human Rights  
March 24-April 14, Spring 2020  
6-8pm, Tuesdays  
Environmental Natural Resources Building (ENR2), 1064 E. Lowell St., Room S215

Instructor Bio
Dr. Michelle Téllez, an Assistant Professor in the department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona, has been committed to mapping projects of resistance, exploring shared human experiences and advancing social justice for the last 25-years. Her scholarly and community engaged work has been deeply shaped by her upbringing along the U.S./Mexico border divide. She writes about transnational community formations (and disruptions), Chicana mothering, and gendered migration in several book anthologies, and in academic journals such as: Gender & Society, Feminist Formations, and Aztlán. Her public scholarship includes writing for Truth Out, The Feminist Wire, and NPR’s Latino USA. Her co-edited book The Chicana M(other)work Anthology: Porque Sin Madres No Hay Revolución was released in March, 2019.

Course Summary
In this course, we will examine economic, political, and socio-cultural dimensions that have shaped the dynamics of the U.S.-Mexico border region and we will focus on the role that gender plays in the geopolitical spaces that form the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. There has been a steady flow of migration to the U.S. from Mexico and Latin America since the 1960s, much of which can be traced to the negative impact of global economic policies. These have resulted in the impoverishment of agricultural sectors, lack of employment opportunities and increasing violence and insecurity in the countries of origin. In this course, we will examine the gendered and racialized geopolitical spaces that are a consequence of these migrations and that form the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. This class focuses on women’s status as it pertains to key border issues including migration, militarization, labor and violence.

Readings
All the readings will be made electronically available to registered students.
Schedule

**Week 1, March 24: Roots of Migration, Key Terms**

*Readings:*


**Week 2, March 31: Militarization of the Border**

*Readings:*


**Week 3, April 7: Gendered Migration**

*Readings:*

- Pierre Hondagneu-Sotelo Ch. 4 “Gendered Transitions”, Ch. 5 “Reconstructing Gender through Immigration and Settlement” in *Gendered Transitions: Mexican Experiences of Immigration*
- Maria de la luz Ibarra “Buscando la Vida”;
- Patricia Zavella Ch. 2 “Migrations”

**Week 4, April 14: Navigating the Borders of ‘Illegality’**

*Readings:*

“Ironies of Social Control and the Criminalization of Immigrants” by Michael Welch; “Awakening to a Nightmare” by Roberto Gonzales & Leo Chavez; “The Undocumented Mexican Migrant Question” by Luis F.B. Plascencia; “No Human Being is Illegal” by Tanya Golash-Boza.

Mae M. Ngai 2007 Birthright Citizenship and the Alien Citizen


Lily Keber “Family Detention”; “Joe Arpaio’s Newest Victim” by Valeria Fernandez;

“Culture of Cruelty Report” by No More Deaths; “Voluntary Work Program Run in Private Detention Centers” by Yana Kunichoff

Michelle Téllez, Arizona: A Reflection and Conversation on the Migrant Rights Movement, 2015