



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Community Classroom

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:

Robert D. Manning and Anita Cristina Butera. 2000. *Global Restructuring and U.S.-Mexican Economic Integration: Rhetoric and Reality of Mexican Immigration Five Years After NAFTA*. *American Studies*, 41:2/3.

Juan Gonzalez. 2000. Harvest of Empire: History of Latinos in the U.S. Introduction.

Jennifer S. Hirsch "Que, pues, con el pinche NAFTA?": *Gender, Power and Migration Between Western Mexico and Atlanta*" *Urban Anthropology and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Development*, Vol. 31, No. 3/4 (FALL-WINTER, 2002), pp. 351-387

Saskia Sassen (1992) *Why Migration?*, *Report on the Americas*, 26:1, 14-47.

Schiller, Basch, Blanc-Szanton. 1992. *Transnationalism: A New Analytic Framework for Understanding Migration*. *Annals New York Academy of Sciences*.

Week 2, March 31: Militarization of the Border

Readings:

"The Militarization of the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1978-1992: Low-Intensity Conflict Doctrine Comes Home" by Timothy J. Dunn.

"The Re-bordering of America after 11 September" by Peter Andreas

Kil, Sang Hea and Cecilia Menjivar. "The "War on the Border": Criminalizing Immigrants and Militarizing the U.S.- Mexico Border." (Ch. 8) In *Immigration and crime: race, ethnicity, and violence*, edited by Abel Valenzuela and Ramiro Martinez. New York and London: New York University Press, 2006.

Falcon, Sylvanna "Rape as a Weapon of War"

Martinez, 2016. *Migrant Deaths in the Sonora Desert* in *Migrant Deaths in the Arizona Desert*.

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"

Ochoa-O'Leary, 2016. *Con el peso en la frente: A Gendered Look at the Human and Economic Costs of Migration on the U.S.-Mexico Border* in *Migrant Deaths in the Arizona Desert*

Michelle Téllez, William Paul Simmons & Mariana del Hierro. 2019. *Border crossings and sexual conquest in the age of neoliberalism in the Sonoran Desert*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14616742.2018.1516513>

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*

Rubio-Goldsmith et. Al, 2016. *Introduction: No Vale Nada la Vida?* In Migrant Deaths in the Arizona Desert.

"The Strange Career of the Illegal Alien" by Mae M. Ngai; "The Criminalization of Undocumented Migrants" by Tanya Golasha-Boza

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