



Department of

LATINA/LATINO STUDIES



Latina/Latino Studies Workshop: "Towards a Borderland Activist Research: Vulnerability, Methods, and Political Engaged Scholarship"

**Wednesday, May 12
3:30-5:00pm**

This work in progress explores the contradictions inherent in activist research methods by focusing on the complexities that researchers from historically marginalized communities experience in "the field." It analyzes the limits of "horizontal collaborations" within a political alignment between activist researchers and their counterparts. As a guiding principle of activist research methods, building horizontal collaborations means challenging the often-unacknowledged hierarchies and power imbalances that structure conventional research methods. It assumes that researchers who come from the marginalized community where they conduct research can more easily establish horizontal collaborations. Based on ethnographic research conducted in El Salvador (2013-15), I conclude that this guiding principle may deter critical discussion of how the racialized and gendered identity assigned to an activist researcher can create multiple vulnerabilities and additional labor within the research collaboration. I suggest that a borderland approach to activist research enables us to examine how activist researchers from historically marginalized communities navigate the racialization of our bodies as less valuable than those of white male researchers, and gendered forms of violence in the field. Borderland activist research asks us to identify the hierarchical biases operating in our collaborations in order to challenge the reproduction of colonial and patriarchal logics in the praxis of politically engaged research.



**Dr. Elizabeth Velásquez
Estrada**
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Register in advance for this workshop:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtduygpz8oE9QdY83iq39M7JcTsrYtgvU5>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the workshop. The paper will be sent to you 1 week before the workshop so that you can prepare comments before the event. You must register to receive the paper.

