

## Latina/Latino Studies Workshop: The Affective Disposition of Brown Bodies: Cinematic Visions of Filipina and Mexican Migrant Domestic Labor



Dr. Maria Lopez-Garcia  
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Wednesday, April 1  
3:30-5pm  
LLS Conference Room 133  
1207 W. Oregon, Urbana

This article examines the depictions of Filipina and Mexican migrant domestic workers in multiplex cinema to trace processes of racial valuation and devaluation of migrant work within contemporary popular culture. This article analyzes the stories of the Mexican and Filipina maid characters, respectively, in two drama films – Alejandro Iñárritu's *Babel* (2006) and Lukas Moodysson's *Mammoth* (2009). Borrowing from critical ethnic studies critiques on the need to explore new analytics to compare racial formations, I set in dialogue different but interconnected filmic representations of migrant workers to analyze the mechanisms of visibility which enable the commodification and stereotyping of brown bodies' innate caring skills in popular culture. Utilizing a relational approach and situating domestic work at the conjunction of neoliberal economic policies and globalization, this article focuses on the production of an affective imagery of the Filipina and Mexican migrant domestic workers in the U.S..

The paper will be made available to participants a week before the workshop so that they can prepare comments. Space is limited so please RSVP to Laura Castañeda at [mlcastan@illinois.edu](mailto:mlcastan@illinois.edu) or (217)265-0370 by March 25th if you wish to attend the workshop and she will send you the paper.