

LATINA/LATINO STUDIES WORKSHOP



Wednesday, April 9, 2014 3:30pm-5:00pm Latina/o Studies conference room, 1207 W. Oregon, Urbana

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This study utilizes the idea of embodiment to examine the social processes that "undocumented" Latin American immigrants undergo and how these social processes affect their health. Embodiment refers to how our bodies and minds literally incorporate, from conception to death, the material and social world in which we live (Krieger 2001). The study uses a critical intersectional lens and an adapted grounded theory approach to analyze 31 original qualitative in-depth interviews with nationally diverse "undocumented" Latin American immigrants in order to create a theoretical framework that addresses: (1) how "undocumented" Latin American immigrants experience structural violence and inequality through labor exploitation, detention and deportation, gender based violence, racialized nativism, discrimination and othering, fragmentation of social ties, internalized suffering, which results in differential exposure and susceptibility; (2) how "undocumented" Latino/a immigrants respond to and contend with inequality; and (3) how structural violence and inequality becomes deleterious physical and mental health outcomes through multilevel pathways of embodiment.

