



Department of

LATINA/LATINO STUDIES

The Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, Jr. Lecture Series

Citizenship Trumped: Walls & Sovereignty on the U.S. Mexico Border

Dr. Miguel Díaz-Barriga & Dr. Margaret Dorsey
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Wednesday, April 12 | 4:00 - 5:30PM
319 Gregory Hall | 810 S. Wright St. Urbana

President Trump is in the process of proposing legislation for increasing border security and extending the already 700 mile long border wall on the U.S. Mexico border. This talk brings an ethnographic approach to understanding the construction of the U.S. Mexico border wall that not only centers on an ethnography of sovereignty but also the transformation of citizenship and culture on the border. We consider border walls both as responses to waning sovereignty and as aspects of the production of militarized borderland subjectivities. Ultimately, we argue that border walls and their attendant policing blur boundaries, intensify criminality and diminish the rights of citizens.

Miguel Díaz-Barriga is a professor of anthropology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and recently served as the Carol L. Zicklin Endowed Chair for the Honors Academy at Brooklyn College. Margaret Dorsey is an associate professor of anthropology and founding curator of the Border Studies Archive at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

