

Department of Latina/Latino Studies presents the Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, Jr. Lecture Series

"COUNTING LATINOS: THE CENSUS, THE ISSUES AND THE FUTURE"

Dr. Clara E. Rodríguez
Professor of Sociology, Fordham University

Latinos are the fastest growing population group in the United States. Through their language and popular music, Latinos continue to make their mark on America and are becoming more assertive and less content to remain America's "second minority." How then do they fit into America's divided racial landscape and how do they define their own racial and ethnic identity? Are they just another American ethnic group, like Italians or Germans, that will assimilate into English-speaking America? Or will they maintain a distinct Spanish-speaking culture for generations to come? Can this diverse group, made up of dozens of separate nationalities, even be considered a single "race"? Can they help bridge the gap between black and white Americans? Through extensive personal interviews and careful analysis of census data, Clara Rodríguez shows that Latino identity is surprisingly fluid, situation-dependent, and constantly changing. She illustrates how the way Latinos are defining themselves, and refusing to define themselves, represents a powerful challenge to America's system of racial classification and American racism.

Dr. Clara E. Rodríguez is the author of ten books including: *Heroes, Lovers and Others* (Washington, D. C.: Oxford University Press, 2008, Smithsonian Institution Press, 2004); *Changing Race: Latinos, The Census and the History of Ethnicity in the United States* (New York University Press, 2000); *Hispanics in the Labor Force: Issues and Policies*, with Meléndez, E. and Barry Figueroa, J. (Eds.). (New York: Plenum Press, 1991); *Puerto Ricans: Born in the USA* (Boulder, CO.: Westview Press, 1991); and *Latin Looks: Images of Latinas and Latinos in U.S. Media.* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997). She is the recipient of numerous research and teaching awards, most recently, the American Sociological Association's 2001 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in the Field of Latina/o Studies, her university's Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Social Sciences in 2003, and she was designated "Distinguished Lecturer" by the Organization of American Historians.



Thursday, November 11, 4pm, 100 Gregory Hall

Co-sponsors: Department of Anthropology, La Casa Cultural Latina

