



Department of

LATINA/LATINO STUDIES

FALL 2015 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dr. Marla Ramírez

Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Associate

Wednesday, September 30
3:30-5:00PM

Room 103, 1207 W. Oregon,
Urbana



"Transgenerational Illegality: The Mexican Repatriation Program & Banishment of U.S. Citizens"

Family storytelling has been at the core of Mexican families for generations and banishment, or as generally known "repatriation," stories have been passed down over nearly ninety years since the early 1920s banishments of U.S. citizens of Mexican descent. The repatriation records in the early 1900s accounted for over one million Mexicans; a startling sixty percent were U.S. citizen children. Trinidad Rodríguez became one of 600,000 U.S. citizen children unconstitutionally banished from her home country as a result of the repatriation efforts of the Great Depression. This paper focuses on the Rodríguez Molina family, participating oral history interviewees include the son, daughter-in-law, and grandson of a now deceased, Trinidad Rodríguez. My study found that many U.S. returnees and their descendants' continued struggles to belong in their ancestor's homeland represent a transgenerational illegality that has been nearly impossible to shake.

