

THE ROLANDO HINOJOSA SMITH, JR. LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS

# "THE LATINO THREAT"

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THIS TALK EXAMINES HOW MEDIA AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE CONSTRUCT MEXICAN AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR U.S.-BORN CHILDREN AS A THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES, FOCUSING ON THE NARRATIVES OF INVASION, RECONQUEST, AND MORE RECENTLY, NATIONAL SECURITY. IT EXAMINES HOW THESE IDEAS BECOME REPEATED AND ELABORATED UPON OVER TIME SO THAT, IN ESSENCE, THEY BECOME "TRUE." REPRESENTATIONS ARE, AS FOUCAULT SUGGESTS, EMBEDDED IN A DISCURSIVE REGIME, BY WHICH IS MEANT THAT THESE AUTHORS AND THESE REPRESENTATIONS DO NOT EXIST IN ISOLATION. THEY CAN BE FOUND IN WORKS OF A NUMBER OF AUTHORS AND VARIOUS MEDIA, OFTEN SELF-REFERENCING, THAT CONSTRUCTS KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH ABOUT LATINOS. THE PRINCIPAL, BUT NOT ONLY, MEDIA FOCUSED ON HERE ARE U.S. NATIONAL MAGAZINE COVERS (VISUAL IMAGES) AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING ARTICLES (DISCURSIVE REPRESENTATIONS) IN THE POST-1965 ERA. AFTER ELABORATING THE DISCOURSE OF THREAT THAT IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE ABOUT LATINO IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR U.S.-BORN OFFSPRING, THIS TALK PROVIDES EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE THAT UNDERMINES THE TRUTH-CLAIMS OF THIS DISCOURSE. MANY OF THE TAKEN-FOR-GRANTED "TRUTHS" ABOUT BEHAVIOR SUCH AS LEARNING ENGLISH AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION ARE SHOWN TO BE UNSUPPORTED BY THE INFORMATION PROVIDED. THE TALK CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT DISCOURSES OF FEAR DISTRACT US FROM UNDERSTANDING PROCESSES OF CULTURE CHANGE AND CULTURAL HYBRIDITY THAT ARE OCCURRING IN SOCIETY'S EXPERIENCING LARGE-SCALE IMMIGRATION.

**4:00 PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009**  
**100 GREGORY HALL**

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