

"PLAYIN' IT SAFE": REFRAMING THE SEXUAL LIVES OF LATINA YOUTH



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Generally, studies that have considered the sexual experiences of Latina girls have approached their sexuality as a "problem," and ignored or marginalized their sexual agency. This perspective on Latina youth tends to obscure other dimensions of their sexual lives, such as the complex interplay of race/ethnicity, gender and sexuality in their social worlds. In this talk, Prof. Garcia will draw on her qualitative research among second-generation Latina girls in Chicago (*Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself: Latina Girls and Sexual Identity* [New York University Press, 2012]) to show how focusing on Latina girls' sexual agency can provide additional insight into their sexual practices and meaning-making, particularly in relation to safe sex.

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