

Latino Studies Program

Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, Jr. Lecture Series

**"BORDERS, BRIDGES, AND BEYOND:  
LATINA/CUBANA/JUBANA REFLECTIONS"**

Ruth Behar, Anthropology Department,  
University of Michigan

**Wednesday, April 21, 4:00pm**

**114 David Kinley Hall**

Dr. Behar's talk will reflect on the range of positions she has taken as a Latina scholar over the years in her work on Mexico and Cuba, drawing on concepts of borders and bridges. She will also address her most recent research in Cuba on the Jewish community and reflect on her latest connection with Cuba as a leader of a semester study abroad program with the University of Michigan. In the course of her reflections, she will discuss the flow between ethnography and literature in her work and attempt to address the idea of being beyond borders and bridges.

Ruth Behar was born in Havana, Cuba and grew up in New York City. She is a professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan and has received numerous honors for her work, including a MacArthur Fellows "genius" Award and a Guggenheim fellowship. She is acclaimed for her ethnographic writing about Spain, Mexico, and Cuba and also writes personal essays, poetry, and fiction. Her books include *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story*, *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology that Breaks Your Heart*, and *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba*. She is the editor of *Bridges to Cuba* and co-editor of *The Portable Island: Cubans at Home in the World* as well as *Women Writing Culture*. She directed and produced a documentary film, "Adio Kerida/Goodbye Dear Love: A Cuban Sephardic Journey," which has been shown in festivals all over the world, including Cuba. Her stories and poetry have been published in bilingual editions in Cuba by Ediciones Vigia.



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