

LATINA/LATINO STUDIES WORKSHOP

**"Micro(metro)cosms and the San Cosme Faquir:
Ephemeral Precarities in Mexico City's Metro"**

**Wednesday, Nov. 16
3:30-5:00pm
1207 W. Oregon, Rm. 133**



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In Mexico City faquirs are known as the street performers that lay down on broken glass shards in public transit. In this paper I analyze the precarious labour of the faquir and his performance in an overcrowded women's section of the metro. I argue that his labor and the passengers' response reflects moments of precarity that reproduce and reify a growing sense of insecurity present in Mexico City. The metro becomes a microcosm of the city itself where precarity blurs the boundaries between illegal and legal thereby sparking moments of discomfort, recognition and subversion.

For a copy of the paper, contact lls-studies@illinois.edu or (217)265-0370.