

LATINA/LATINO STUDIES WORKSHOP

“Transgenerational Illegality: Prolonged Consequences of a State Imposed Illegality during the Great Depression’s Mexican Repatriation Program”

Wednesday, February 17
3:30-5:00pm
1207 W. Oregon, room 133



Dr. Marla Andrea Ramirez
Latina/Latino Studies Postdoctoral
Research Fellow

The Mexican Repatriation program executed during the Great Depression accounted for over one million Mexican removals, a startling sixty percent were U.S. citizen children. This article challenges dominant historical narratives to underline the unconstitutional banishment of U.S. citizen children. Using race, class, gender, and generation as categories of analysis and relying on the multigenerational oral histories of the Rodríguez Molina family, this study recovers and rewrites the history of banishment of working class U.S. citizens of Mexican descent. Every family experienced banishment in very particular ways but all shared a sense of injustice. The Rodríguez Molina family specifically speaks to the prolonged consequences of a state imposed illegality, inherited across generations, resulting in what I refer to as a transgenerational illegality that has been nearly impossible to overcome.

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