BORDERLINE SLAVERY
Contemporary Issues in Border Security and the Human Trade

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN INSTITUTE
OCTOBER 18, 2012
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AGENDA
Thursday, October 18, 2012
All panels will be held in SUB Ballroom A.
The keynote luncheon will be held in SUB Lobo A & B.

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
Introductions & Welcoming Remarks
Mark Peceny, Dean of Arts & Sciences, University of New Mexico
Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de León, Consul of Mexico, Mexican Consulate of Albuquerque
Susan Tiano, Director, Latin American & Iberian Institute, University of New Mexico
Iñigo García-Bryce, Director, Center for Latin America and Border Studies, New Mexico State University
Sandra Garabano, Interim Director, Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, University of Texas at El Paso

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Panel I: Border Security and Human Rights
Moderator: Felipe Gonzales, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico
Vickie Gaubeca, American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico / Regional Center for Border Rights
Neil Harvey, Department of Government, New Mexico State University
Gilberto Rosas, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

10:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Break

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Panel II: Immigration and Human Trafficking
Moderator: Patricia Covarrubias, Department of Communication & Journalism, University of New Mexico
Tony Payan, Department of Political Science, University of Texas at El Paso
Richard Schaefer, Department of Communication & Journalism, University of New Mexico
Josiah Heyman, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at El Paso
12:15 - 12:30 p.m.
Break

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Keynote Luncheon
   Timothy Dunn, Department of Sociology,
   Salisbury University

1:30 - 1:45 p.m.
Break

1:45 - 3:15 p.m.
Panel III: Human Trafficking and the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands
   Moderator: Christine Sierra, Director, Southwest Hispanic Research Institute,
   University of New Mexico
   Brenner Allen, Associate, Counsel with the law firm of Allen, Pinnix & Nichols
   Lise Olsen, Journalist, Houston Chronicle
   Jeremy Slack, Department of Geography,
   University of Arizona

3:15 - 3:30 p.m.
Break

3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
Discussion
   Moderator: Susan Tiano, Director, Latin American & Iberian Institute,
   University of New Mexico

4:45 - 5:00 p.m.
Closing Remarks
   Cornell H. Menking, Associate Provost for International and Border Programs,
   New Mexico State University
BACKGROUND

Across the world, more people are living in slavery today than at any time in human history—even in the United States, which prides itself on being a free society. Each year, thousands of people are trafficked within and across our borders to serve as sex slaves or un-free labor in U.S. homes, fields, and factories. Many enter via our southern border with Mexico, after having been trafficked within or across Mexico from other parts of the Americas and beyond. Despite evidence that this trend is accelerating, it often goes undetected because human trafficking is so antithetical to our cultural values and collective image of what we stand for as U.S. Americans that we have a hard time seeing it for what it is. Instead it tends to masquerade as other, more common practices that are themselves such hot button issues that they monopolize public perceptions and policy dialogue—undocumented migration, prostitution, and labor exploitation. Enslaved migrant laborers are often seen simply as undocumented workers who are in the country illegally, while sex trafficking victims are merely prostitutes plying an illegal trade. Such misrepresentation makes it difficult to detect victims, to deter the practice by imposing stiff penalties on apprehended traffickers, and to allocate the necessary resources to combat the conditions that encourage the human trade.

But understand it we must, because human trafficking is flourishing in the globalization era. By increasing expectations for material success worldwide without offering everyone the necessary resources to reach their dreams, globalization is stimulating migration. At the same time, for economic and political reasons many countries are trying to seal their borders through restrictive immigration policy. Meanwhile, the demand for sex workers and cheap labor in private households and commercial enterprises is continuing unabated; the profits to be made by supplying this demand are sky-rocketing; and the ability of national and local governments to regulate these labor markets and combat illegal strategies for supplying them, is limited by misinformation and resource scarcity. The U.S.-Mexico borderlands play a critical role in this process because they highlight and reinforce the demographic, economic, cultural, and political dynamics that shape human trafficking and modern-day slavery in the Americas.
The goal of the UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute’s outreach efforts, through the 2009 conference we organized with the United Nations (“Modern-Day Slavery in the Americas”); the recently published book, *Borderline Slavery: Mexico, the United States, and the Human Trade* (Ashgate Press, 2012), which grew out of that conference; and the October 17-18, 2012, symposium, “Borderline Slavery: Contemporary Issues in Border Security and the Human Trade,” which we have organized on the eve of the book’s publication, is to promote scholarship, public awareness, and effective public policy to combat human trafficking in Mexico, the United States, and our shared border region.

More comprehensive information about these outreach efforts is available online at the LAII’s website: http://laii.unm.edu.
About the LAII

Because of the geographic location and unique cultural history of New Mexico, the University of New Mexico (UNM) has emphasized Latin American Studies since the early 1930s. In 1979, the Latin American & Iberian Institute (LAII) was founded to coordinate Latin American programs on campus. Designated a National Resource Center (NRC) by the U.S. Department of Education, the LAII offers academic degrees, supports research, provides development opportunities for faculty, and coordinates an outreach program that reaches diverse constituents. In addition to the Latin American Studies (LAS) degrees offered, the LAII supports Latin American studies in departments and professional schools across campus by awarding student fellowships and providing funds for faculty and curriculum development.

The LAII’s mission is to create a stimulating environment for the production and dissemination of knowledge of Latin America and Iberia at UNM. We believe our goals are best pursued by efforts to build upon the insights of more than one academic discipline. We support research from the humanities and social sciences, as well as the natural sciences, health sciences, and other professional schools. Therefore when allocating materials and human resources, we give special consideration to broadly interdisciplinary projects that promote active collaboration from different schools, colleges, and/or departments.
Panel Presentations

Panel I: Border Security and Human Rights

Vickie Gaubeca
American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico / Regional Center for Border Rights

*Militarization of the Border and its Implication on Human and Civil Rights*

In the last decade, the U.S. government has spent billions of taxpayer’s dollars deploying federal enforcement resources at the U.S.-Mexico border in the name of national security, but how has this affected the quality of life of border communities? Ms. Gaubeca will talk about the human and civil rights implications of our enforcement-only immigration policy at the border, including how it has resulted in more family separations and increased criminalization of fathers, mothers and siblings of U.S. citizens.

Neil Harvey, Department of Government
New Mexico State University

*Educating for Human Rights: Lessons from a Service Learning Program at the US-Mexico Border*

This presentation will discuss the ways that students can engage in advocacy work with border communities and non-governmental organizations in order to promote human rights and social justice. It draws lessons from a service learning program at NMSU between 2008 and 2012 and discusses challenges for the future.

Gilberto Rosas, Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Thickening Borders and Other Criminalized Possibilities*

Drawing on ethnographic and historical methods, this paper explores the dynamics of contemporary border making, specifically the securitization of undocumented and its profound, criminalizing effects, as it reverberates from the international boundary between Mexico and the United States. Mass, overwhelming
defiance of regimes of politically organized premature death, such as the “kill-ing deserts,” vigilantism, and militarized border patrolling, and related violent subjugation, such as trafficking, cultivate new political demands. The powers of border making and un-making instigate historically derived oppositional imaginaries and specific demands from people long felt to be on the jagged margins of state power.
Panel II: Immigration and Human Trafficking

Tony Payan, Department of Political Science
University of Texas at El Paso

*Human Trafficking on the U.S.-Mexico Border*

This presentation continues the difficult task of defining the boundaries of human trafficking on the U.S.-Mexico border, a place where poor Central Americans and Mexicans often fall victim of criminals and predators, who rob them of their cash and belongings and extract other concessions including forced labor, sex, or recruit them for criminal activities. The issue of participation and consent are explored further.

Richard Schaefer, Department of Communication & Journalism
University of New Mexico

*Central American Migration through Mexico and the Southwest United States*

This presentation will examine the plight of Central American migrants who continue to come to the United States in significant numbers. These migrants are more desperate and less informed about the potential dangers of being trafficked than Mexican migrants. Schaefer is a founder of the Cross-Border Issues Group, which has studied migration through Mexico and into the United States.

Josiah Heyman, Department of Anthropology
University of Texas at El Paso

*Guns, Drugs, and Money: Ideas for an Alternative U.S. Border Enforcement Policy*

U.S. Border enforcement has concentrated on mass labor migration from Mexico and Central America, and also interdiction of physical shipments of illegalized drugs. It uses rhetoric of homeland security, but actually is not well located or suited to address potential terrorism. It does include some measures to address transnational criminal organizations, but in other ways ignores their main mechanisms of gaining profits and power and strengthens and hardens them. A border policy targeted at taking down guns and money rather than a
mass counter-migration border policy will increase community safety in both the United States and Mexico.
Panel III: Human Trafficking and the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

Brenner Allen, Associate, Counsel with the law firm of Allen, Pinnix & Nichols

Progress and Challenges in the Fight Against Human Trafficking in Mexico

All Mexican states have enacted anti-trafficking penal code provisions. Most have specific anti-trafficking laws in place as well. Additionally, in 2007 and 2009, Mexico passed a federal anti-trafficking law and accompanying regulations. I will highlight the Mexican government and non-governmental organizations’ successes in implementing these federal and state anti-trafficking laws. I will also discuss the ongoing obstacles to the prevention, prosecution, and punishment of human trafficking in Mexico.

Lise Olsen, Journalist, Houston Chronicle

American Human Trafficking Victims – Why do some get rescued and some not?

Houston, Texas is a major center for human trafficking. But efforts to prosecute offenders and shut down their cover businesses often fail to identify or rescue the victims of traffickers. Some victims get overlooked. Some get swallowed up in the paperwork and only a few are brave enough to speak out.

Jeremy Slack, Department of Geography
University of Arizona

Captive bodies: Kidnapping and Human Trafficking on the Border

The politics of the body play out in extreme and brutal ways among the migrant flows along the U.S. Mexico border, continuing deep into both countries. Undocumented migration and labor exploitation go hand in hand. Legal regimes that limit the rights and protections of a group of people move them into spaces of exploitation and extortion often hidden from view and difficult to understand. Through five years of fieldwork on the U.S. Mexico border, we have docu-
mented how prevalent labor exploitation, threats and debt from crossing play into a system whereupon control over people’s bodies becomes paramount in extracting capital. This finds its ultimate manifestation in brutal kidnappings by transnational criminal organizations that blur the line between extortion and human trafficking. In this paper I argue that feminist geopolitics provides a way to understand the current crisis in Mexico and the U.S. as a hyper-commodification of the body, through harnessing the potential for labor, the threat of death to extract from family members and even the sale of the body as organs. Through in-depth interviews and surveys with deportees our binational team of researchers has shed light on the widespread nature of these abuses and the disturbing nature of U.S. deportation practices.
Timothy Dunn, Department of Sociology
Salisbury University

*Border Militarization, Immigration, and Human Rights*

Professor Dunn will provide an overview of border immigration enforcement on the US-Mexico border (mainly on the US side) over the past 15 years, his Border Militarization framework for interpreting it (whereby military act more like police and vice versa), and immigration trends in recent years (particularly from Mexico). Finally, he will discuss the human rights implications of all of this, drawing on key concepts from the Sociology of Human Rights and briefly contrast that with a Citizenship / National Sovereignty perspective.
Brenner Allen is an associate of counsel with the law firm of Allen, Pinnix & Nichols, P.A. Her practice concentrates on administrative law and antitrust and trade regulation. In particular, she focuses on cross-border professional regulation issues and cooperation between U.S. licensing agencies and their international counterparts. Ms. Allen also occasionally consults in the areas of human rights law and judicial reform. Prior to her association with Allen, Pinnix & Nichols, P.A. in July 2010, Ms. Allen worked for several years at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative. There, she focused on international human rights law as well as judicial and legal profession reform. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill law school, Ms. Allen has contributed to several international regulatory or rule of law related publications. She authored several chapters for the forthcoming Kluwer Law publication Comparative Law on Monopolies; authored a chapter on judicial reform for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s forthcoming Anti-Corruption Handbook; co-authored a chapter in the ABA Section on Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice’s International Election Principles; and co-authored a chapter for the Kluwer Law publication Competition Law in Western Europe and the U.S.A. She also served as editor for numerous ABA assessments of human rights and legal system reform in developing countries.
Dr. Patricia Covarrubias, a native of Mexico, is Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico in the Department of Communication and Journalism where she teaches a variety of courses linking culture and communication, as well as courses in qualitative research methods with emphasis on the ethnography of communication. Her research has been dedicated to understanding and describing how local culture influences peoples’ ways of communicating and vice versa, and on describing how culturally grounded communicative practices reflect and create a unique life for groups of people. Her past research includes Mexicanist ways of speaking and American Indian uses of silence and her publications include various articles and book chapters, and a book, Culture, Communication, and Cooperation: Interpersonal Relations and Pronominal Address in a Mexican Organization, published in 2002 by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Boulder, CO. Dr. Covarrubias’ careers include work as an on-air television news reporter for KCRA-TV, the NBC affiliate in Sacramento, California, presenting broadcast reports broached a wide range of topics including: politics, medicine, crime, education, and human interest. Dr. Covarrubias earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from California State University, Sacramento specializing in French language and literature. She earned a Ph.D. degree in communication studies in 1999 from the University of Washington, specializing in cultural/intercultural communication.
Timothy Dunn, Ph.D. Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, is a Professor of Sociology at the Fulton School of Liberal Arts, Salisbury University. He is the author of two books on immigration, militarization of the border and human rights: Blockading the Border and Human Rights: The El Paso Operation that Re-made Immigration Enforcement and The Militarization of the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1978-1992: Low Intensity Conflict Doctrine Comes Home. One area of research focus is on the Latino immigration story in the Maryland area and the intersection between citizenship rights and human rights, the results of which help to better inform area libraries and other social service providers about this rapidly growing population. The author of numerous professional articles and anthology chapters, Dr. Dunn’s most recent work was presented at American Sociological Association (ASA) meeting in August 2012 on “Emerging Theories of Human Rights in Sociology: Human Agency, Social Structure, and Bureaucracy.” As a faculty member at SU he has the opportunity to pursue his main interests, teaching and interacting with students. As a strong proponent of service- and experiential-learning, Dr. Dunn hopes to aid the establishment of study-abroad/international exchange programs between SU and universities in Mexico. He is also engaged in community service work related to recent Latino immigration to this area. In general, he strives to build cross-disciplinary bridges with students and faculty around issues of mutual interest, such as Latin American Studies, Border Studies, Human Rights and International Migration.
Iñigo García-Bryce is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Latin American and Border Studies at New Mexico State University. He grew up in Peru, earned his B.A. at Harvard University, his M.A. in Latin American Studies and his PhD in History at Stanford University. He was a Fulbright Scholar to Peru in the Fall of 2009, and a visiting professor at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. His current research project is on the history of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) – his most recent publication on this project is a chapter in the edited volume The Making of the Middle Class: Toward a Transnational History (Duke University Press, 2012). He has completed a manuscript on the oral history of APRA titled Testimonios de lucha: historia oral del APRA, 1930-1950. His book Crafting the Republic: Lima’s Artisans and Nation-Building in Peru, 1821-1879 was published by New Mexico University Press in 2004 and translated and published by the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in 2008. He teaches courses on Peru, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico as well as transnational courses including Rebels, Guerrillas and Terrorists in Latin America, and Uneasy Neighbors: U.S. Latin American Relations. He is the father of two boys, Samuel (11) and Mateo (8).
Sandra Garabano is a specialist in Latin American literature and culture. She studies the negotiations of concepts such as race, class and ethnicity in Latin American literature. As a Fulbright scholar in Santiago, Chile she studied how ideas of race, class and identity are generated, sustained and fractured in the work of major Chilean writers such as Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna, Joaquín Edwards Bello, Benjamín Subercaseaux and Nobel Prize recipients Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda. She has published articles in The Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, Revista Iberoamericana, Chasqui and Hispamerica. Currently, she is writing a book titled Mestizos and Modernization: Racial Mixing in the Development of Latin America’s Literary Tradition.
Vicki Gaubeca joined the ACLU of New Mexico in January 2009 to become the director of the ACLU-NM Regional Center for Border Rights, based in Las Cruces, New Mexico, where she has helped develop and implement its mission of addressing civil and human rights violations that stem from border-specific immigration policy. Three priority areas for the Regional Center for Border Rights are addressing and preventing abuse of power by border enforcement officials, stopping wrongful enforcement of federal, civil immigration laws by local police and ensuring individuals held in immigration detention receive constitutionally protected, humane treatment and due process. She has more than 20 years of upwardly progressive and leadership experience in policy advocacy, community organizing, public affairs, communications, and public health in a variety of settings, but immigrant rights—as well as any civil rights—is an issue close to her heart. Born and raised in Mexico City, Gaubeca joined ACLU-NM most recently from Tucson, Arizona, where she was a passionate advocate and supporter for both immigrant rights and the LGBT community. She was a member of Las Adelitas, a group that aims to improve the quality of life for Latinas and their families through political empowerment, and part of the steering committee for Adelante, Nuestro Futuro, an annual conference that brought 250 Latina mothers together with their middle school daughters for a Saturday full of activities, including health pláticas on diabetes and substance abuse prevention.
Felipe Gonzales

Phillip (Felipe) B. Gonzales is professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico (UNM). He was formerly an associate dean in the College of Arts & Sciences, chair of the Sociology Department and director of the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute at UNM. He is the editor of Expressing New Mexico: Nuevo-mexicano Creativity, Ritual and Remembrance (2007), author of Forced Sacrifice as Ethnic Protest: The Hispano Cause in New Mexico and the Racial Attitude Confrontation of 1933 (2001), and co-author of Sunbelt Working Mothers: Reconciling Family and Factory (1993). His current research involves the integration of the Mexican Americans of New Mexico into the American political system, 1836-1912.
Neil Harvey (Ph.d University of Essex 1990) is a professor and head of the Department of Government at New Mexico State University. His main areas of research concern indigenous peoples and political change in Latin America. His main publications include The Chiapas Rebellion: the struggle for land and democracy (Duke University Press, 1998), published in Spanish as La Rebelion de Chiapas (Era, 2000), and Governing Latin America (co-authored with Joe Foweraker and Todd Landman (Polity Press, 2003). Since 2008, he has taught a summer class at NMSU entitled “Service Learning Experience: Social Justice on the US-Mexico Border” and has helped organize three conferences on immigration policy and human rights.
Josiah Heyman received his Ph.D. in anthropology in 1988, from the City University of New York, where he was a student of Eric Wolf. Currently, he is Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the University of Texas in El Paso. He has published three books: Life and Labor on the Border: Working People of Northeastern Sonora, 1886-1986; Finding a Moral Heart for U.S. Immigration Policy: An Anthropological View; and States and Illegal Practices. He has also published more than 70 articles and book chapters on a variety of themes, particularly borders, migrations and mobility, states and border enforcement workers, and the relationship between social sciences and public values. He has a particular focus on connecting social sciences, public policies, and activism. He is on the Board of Directors of the Society for Applied Anthropology and also is President of the Board of Directors of a large community organization, the Border Network for Human Rights, based in El Paso, Texas, and southern New Mexico.
Cornell H. Menking has been the Associate Provost for International and Border Programs at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM since July 2012. He often presents on topics pertaining to comprehensive internationalization and most recently has been working at the national level to address comprehensive internationalization challenges that minority-serving institutions in the United States face. He also frequently advises the Colombian government on the internationalization of higher education in that country. Before coming to NMSU, Menking was the Assistant Vice President for International Affairs at Kentucky State University, Chief International Officer at Western Kentucky University, and a professor of education and administrator (Director of International Programs, and Director of Graduate Programs in Education) at Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador (2001-2008). He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, West Africa (1988-91), lived in the Sakha Republic (Siberia), Russia (1993-96), and has travelled throughout Central Asia, India, and Latin America working in the areas of rural community development and sustainable leadership. He received a bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University (1986), as well as a Master’s (1998) and Ph.D. (2003) from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM.
Lise Olsen

Lise Olsen is a senior investigative reporter at the Houston Chronicle and has reported extensively about the operations of human trafficking rings in Houston, considered a major hub for trafficking in the United States. Olsen specializes in human rights and public corruption issues and has twice been named Texas Star Reporter of the Year by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors (TAPME). She served on the board of directors of the non-profit Investigative Reporters & Editors from 2007-2011 and was executive director of IRE’s Mexico project from 1996-98. Olsen has trained journalists in investigative and computer-assisted reporting techniques in a dozen countries.
Tony Payan, Ph.D., is a visiting Baker Institute Scholar for Immigration and Border Studies with the Latin America Initiative at Rice University. He is an associate professor of political science at The University of Texas at El Paso. He also serves on the graduate faculty at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. Payan’s research focuses on the applicability of international relations theory to the U.S.-Mexico border and other border environments. His work theorizes on various topics regarding international borders, including border governability, foreign policy attitudes on the border and the manifestation of U.S. foreign policy at its borders. Payan’s publications include two books: “Cops, Soldiers and Diplomats: Understanding Agency Behavior in the War on Drugs” and “The Three U.S.-Mexico Border Wars: Drugs, Immigration and Homeland Security.” He has also co-edited three other volumes: “Gobernabilidad e Ingobernabilidad en la Región Paso del Norte,” “Human Rights Along the U.S.-Mexico Border: Gendered Violence and Insecurity” and “De Soldaderas a Activistas: La mujer chihuahuense en los albores del Siglo XXI.” A more recent co-edited manuscript, “A War That Can’t Be Won: Binational Perspectives on the War on Drugs,” is currently under review at The University of Arizona Press. He has also authored numerous book chapters and academic articles. Payan earned his B.A. in philosophy and classical languages (Greek and Latin) from the University of Dallas and his MBA from the University of Dallas Graduate School of Management. He received his doctorate degree in international relations from Georgetown University in 2001.
Gilberto Rosas is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Latin@ Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Rosas graduated from the University of Texas in 2004 with a doctorate in Anthropology and a doctoral portfolio in Mexican American Studies. He has held several prestigious fellowships, including the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Latina/o Studies at Northwestern University, and he was a fellow Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago, where he was also visiting faculty in the Department of Anthropology. Much of his scholarship emerges from his ethnographic research on the production of criminalities in the Mexico-US borderlands. His interests range from questions of state and governance, to race, difference, and power, to migrations and borders. He has published in Latino Studies, Social Text, Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power, and other venues. His book came out summer 2012 with Duke University Press, titled Barrio Libre: Criminalizing States and Delinquent Refusals of the New Frontier.
Richard Schaefer

Richard J. Schaefer, associate professor in the University of New Mexico’s Department of Communication and Journalism, is a co-founder of the Cross-Border Issues Group (CBIG), which leads groups of UNM and Mexican students in intensive, month-long primary-source journalism research efforts in immigration and indigenous culture hot spots in the United States, Mexico and Central America. CBIG focuses on boots-on-the-ground primary-source journalism and research. He also administers a political journalism program in Washington, D.C. His teaching specialties include broadcast news, media writing, immigration issues and media institutions and structures. After receiving a B.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame, he worked producing television commercials and as a filmmaker in residence at the Salt Lake Art Center. He also worked for five years as an editor, producer and special projects producer for KUTV News in Salt Lake City, as well as on several BBC documentaries, before becoming head scriptwriter for an interactive videodisc company during the 1980s. He earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from the University of Utah, where he conducted audience research for Utah’s premier public television station, KUED. He taught at Texas A&M University before taking a position at UNM in 1996. Since coming to New Mexico he has served as the chair of the KUNM Radio Board and the review and criticism editor for the Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media, as well as chair of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication’s Division of Communication Technology. He currently directs the Department of Communication and Journalism’s MA program.
A member of the UNM faculty since 1986, Professor Sierra teaches and researches in the field of American politics with a focus on race, ethnicity, and gender. Her publications include work on Mexican American activism on immigration policy, Hispanic politics in New Mexico, and the politics of Latina women in the United States. Sierra has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, the University of Arizona, and the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. As an expert in American and Latino/a politics, she appears frequently in local and national media outlets. During presidential elections, she has also appeared in the international press, including Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC), Libération (Paris), Carta Capital (Sao Paulo), Suddeutsche Zeitung (Munich), Franfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Frankfurt), Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Zurich), and the Asahi Shimbun (Japan). Sierra’s current major research project is a national study of elected officials of color in the United States. This study, known as the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Project (GMCL), investigates the backgrounds, trajectories to office, political attitudes and policy positions of African American, Hispanic, and Asian Americans serving in federal, state, and local office. Co-PIs include Carol Hardy-Fanta, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Pei-te Lien, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Dianne M. Pinderhughes, University of Notre Dame. A book manuscript is in preparation for Cambridge University Press. Sierra is also an expert on Latino/a politics, at the national level and in the state of New Mexico. She examines Latino/a electoral behavior as well Latino political mobilization, including social movement activism and community-based organization. She also continues her longstanding interest on the politics of U.S. immigration in her research and teaching.
Jeremy Slack is a doctoral candidate in the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona. His interests include Political and Urban Geography, undocumented migration and deportation, The U.S.-Mexico Border, drugs, violence, kidnapping, human trafficking and critical perspectives on methodology including, applied, activist and participatory research. He has worked in Nogales, Sonora for almost ten years studying issues of informal access to housing, access to water, deportation, migration and drug violence. He recently completed fieldwork as one of the Principal investigators on a large project to survey and interview recent deportees all along the border. The completely bi-national team conducted over 1300 one hour long surveys in Tijuana and Mexicali, Baja California; Nogales, Sonora; Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua; Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas and Mexico City during aerial repatriations. In addition to the quantitative materials, he conducted qualitative interviews and took ethnographic field notes in all of these cities to better understand the dynamics of deportation and violence. He has published in Human Organization, Practicing Anthropology, and Norte America: La Revista de UNAM as well as several book chapters. He hopes to produce scholarly information that is useful to debates such as immigration that need scholarship directly engaged with the questions being asked by activists, NGOs and politicians.
Susan Tiano

Susan Tiano is the Director of the Latin American and Iberian Institute and a Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Mexico. Her areas of specialization include women and labor within Latin America and along the U.S.–Mexico border, the maquiladora industry, and the effects of economic crises on women and households. She has written numerous book chapters, journal articles and books, including Women on the United States–Mexico Border: Responses to Change (with Vickie Ruiz) and Patriarchy on the Line: Gender, Labor, and Ideology in the Mexican Maquila Industry.