

# INTERROGATING INEQUALITY: THE CONSTRUCTION OF RACIAL POLITICS IN EDUCATION

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 | 4:00-6:00 p.m.

UNM Student Union Building, Santa Ana B



Photo of "World Geography" mural. Reprinted CC © from Flickr user Cedward Brice.

**DR. NANCY LÓPEZ**  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

## **Interrogating Inequality? The Politics of Mapping and Interrupting Intersecting Race, Gender and Class Inequalities in U.S. Schools**

Over the centuries, racially stigmatized communities, such as American Indians, African Americans and Latina/o communities have experienced and resisted intersecting structural racism, sexism, classism in U.S. schools and decades after the passage of Civil Rights legislations, we continue to experience the poorest educational outcomes as a result. How can an intentional focus on the intersection and co-construction of race, gender and class and other axes of difference in our data collection, analysis, reporting yield new insights for research, policy and action? How can we establish pathways, from harmonized race, gender, and class data collection—to effective and contextualized education policy? How can we build mini-social movements that are anchored in social justice against the backdrop of neoliberal and colorblind ideologies that render racial, class, gender and other axes of inequality as the inevitable outcome of competition in a so-called “meritocracy”? Dr. López argues that a focused attention to intersectionality,

specifically, namely linking the co-construction of race, gender, class, ethnicity and other intersecting systems of oppression and sites of resistance the individual/micro-level, institutional, meso-level, and societal/macro-level, are important ways of framing research and policies that advance social movement anchored in educational justice in U.S. schools.

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**DR. RICKY LEE ALLEN**  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE,  
LITERACY, AND SOCIOCULTURAL  
STUDIES

## **Whiteness, Race, and the “Good” School**

Even after decades of academic and public attention, the relationship between race and education is still largely misunderstood because we do not situate it within an accurate social and historical context. Race and racism are structural aspects of a racialized social system that organizes people into “races,” privileges “whites,” assigns relative “value” according to body schema, and produces and maintains hierarchies between racial groups. Education plays a role in re-creating this racialized social system, as do institutions and other phenomena external to schooling. Absent a consciousness of how this system operates, we misrecognize affluent white schools as “good” and white people as “normal.” In this talk, Dr. Allen will challenge discourse that constructs white “successes” as a model by deconstructing how they are caught up in dehumanizing processes.

*This joint presentation is free and open to the public.*

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