

UNM Feminist Research Institute Presents

*"Protecting our Families and Communities: Child Sexual
Violence Cases in Coahuila, Mexico, 1876-1931"*

Sandra Elizabeth Lara, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History



*Friday March 4th,
12:00-1:00pm
SUB Cherry/
Silver*

Utilizing criminal court records involving deflowering, rape, and incest cases, this study explores over 255 sexual crimes occurring in this northeastern state of Mexico from 1867 to 1938. The cases demonstrate how women, families, and defendants framed their cases by drawing on their own notions of familial and sexual honor in order to gain the courts' attention. Further, as these years overlap, two major pieces of penal legislation passed at the federal level—the Criminal Code of 1871 and the Criminal Code of 1931—her work traces how these two federal codes were adopted at the state-level.