

NM Feminist Research Institute

2018 Fall Lecture Series

Dr. Bernadine Hernández, Department of English

"Invisible Bodies of a New Nation: Civility and Sexual Economies on the Nineteenth Century Borderlands"

This talk will ask: How can we understand the ongoing gender and sexual violence on the borderlands in relation to the past? Dr. Hernández looks at how empire and its related forms of racialization are shaped up and against gender, sex, and sexuality. In other words, how is gender and sexual order/power that is regulated through private and public life inextricable from other regulatory schematics of property holding, labor, and citizenship? This talk interrogates the notion of modern sexuality as it emerges through sexual colonial, expansionist conquest, and violence in the Southwest for Mexican/MexicanAmerican/Chicana women on the borderlands and examines how these material and discursive processes work to create certain pathologies on Mexican American women that deem them 'disposable' or 'proper.' Simultaneously, the talk will examine the relationship and slippage in normalized discourse that subsumes certain Mexican and Mexican American women only visible through brutal gendered and sexual violence in relation to the elite land-holding Mexican and Mexican American women who attempted to represent themselves as 'proper' and 'civil' citizens whom would propel the nation forward during a time when the rhetoric of 'civility' was at its height in US Empire through court cases, *testimonios*, narratives, visuals, editorials, and other historical documents.

10/30/2018
12:00-1:00pm
SUB Cherry/Silver

