Clandestine Crossings: Migrants and Coyotes on the Texas-Mexico Border

Author David Spener (Sociology and Anthropology, Trinity University) meets critics panel. Hosted by the UCLA Migration Studies Group.

Friday, September 24, 2010
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Haines Hall 279
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Drawing on ethnographic observations of crossing conditions in the borderlands of South Texas, as well as interviews with migrants, coyotes, and border officials, Spener details how migrants and coyotes work together to evade apprehension by U.S. law enforcement authorities as they cross the border. In so doing, he seeks to dispel many of the myths that misinform public debate about undocumented immigration to the United States. In the absence of adequate employment opportunities in Mexico and legal mechanisms for them to work in the United States, migrants and coyotes draw on their social connections and cultural knowledge to stage successful border crossings in spite of the ever greater dangers placed in their path by government authorities.

Critics: Kelly Lytle-Hernandez (History, UCLA) and Peter Brownell (Rand Corporation)

Author: David Spener (Sociology and Anthropology, Trinity University)

Cost: Free and open to the public

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