Los Morenos and the Mexicans: Of Muggings, Critical Colorism, and Relational Race-Making Processes in South Chicago

In a talk based on his forthcoming book, Dr. Sergio Lemus will explore how racism is constructed between Mexican working class people and black residents in a working class neighborhood in Chicago. Lemus draws from relational studies literature that posits that racialization happens dynamically; group-based racial constructions are formed not only in relation to whiteness, but also in relation to other devalued and marginalized groups (e.g. African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, and Asian-Pacific Islanders) whose own racialization is constantly at play. He will show that by studying race relationally, scholars can examine the logics that underpin the particular forms of inclusion and subordination a group faces when the gravitational force of US-based ethnic classification is felt less intensely, as happens at the borderlands of Whiteness.

Thursday April 4th 4:00pm GA 4067

Sergio Lemus is an anthropologist whose research interests include theories of race, materiality, the body, Mexican migration, border analysis, and class relations. He is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Latino Studies Program.