Contesting Hostility Towards Nicaraguan Migrants in Costa Rica: An Ongoing Project of Public Social Science

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Monday, March 21st
2:30 pm
409 Tier

Dr. Sandoval-García will discuss one of the most salient cases of South-South immigration in Latin America: Nicaraguan immigration to Costa Rica. Despite Costa Rica’s self-representation as a peaceful and democratic society, Nicaraguan migrants in Costa Rica, who make up 7% of the nation’s population, are portrayed as violent criminals and “threatening Others.” Sandoval-García’s research is based on the analysis of the social imaginaries that frame that representation of Nicaraguans, such as media representations, participatory research carried out with impoverished communities, and critical interventions to change immigration law. Based on this analysis, he will reflect on the ways in which social sciences in Costa Rica attempt to intervene both in the “common sense” hostility of Costa Rican society and in how Nicaraguans contest these hostilities.