

Dr. Oliva Espin

Is Domestic Violence a cultural tradition?...and other questions about gender and migration.

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Noon—1:30pm

Location: Room 10, Behrakis



Dr. Espin will address issues of domestic violence from the perspective of immigrant women. Within immigrant communities, women are often seen as the keepers of their native culture, expected to maintain traditional mores and values, especially around gender and sexuality. Therefore, when women and girls transgress the gender roles demanded of them, they are often met with social and physical punishment. Because immigrant men are often disempowered as result of migration, some assert their authority in the few domains they have left, sometimes in the form of domestic violence. While pressures of acculturation pose multiple and powerful stressors, Espin argues that another form of oppression often arises from members of the host culture who are eager to be “culturally sensitive,” responding to the family violence and abuse as inherent in the immigrant culture. By focusing on the relationship between immigration and domestic violence, Espin sheds light on social and psychological processes of abuse in relation to gender, sexuality, and nation. Oliva M. Espín is Professor Emerita in the Department of Women’s Studies at San Diego State University and the California School of Professional Psychology of Alliant International University. Throughout her career she has conducted innovative research, developed and taught courses on the psychology of women, psychotherapy and immigrant issues. **Please RSVP to Aileen Ochoa at a.ochoa@neu.edu by Monday, Oct 19 if you plan to attend.**

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