CCIS | Center for Comparative Immigration Studies

CCIS WINTER 2016 RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES:

LABOR STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT:
HOW STATE AND SOCIETY ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT WAGE THEFT
AND WORKPLACE INJURY
Prof. Janice Fine
Monday, January 27th, 2016 - 12pm to 1:30pm

Janice Fine is Associate Professor of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at the *School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University*. She teaches and writes about low wage immigrant labor in the U.S., federal immigration policy, dilemmas of labor standards enforcement, and innovative union and community organizing strategies. Fine is faculty coordinator of the Program on Immigration and Democracy at the Eagleton Institute of Politics and principal investigator of the Rutgers Immigrant Infrastructure Map (RIIM), a cross-disciplinary, applied research project that studies the role of immigrant organizations and immigrant infrastructures in New Jersey .

Labor Standards Enforcement Through Co-Production:

Labor inspection is a central response to the tremendous gap between regulations on the books and outcomes for low wage, immigrant workers in the US and throughout the world. Scholarly and policy debates on labor regulation have focused attention on improving the targeting of enforcement, changing strategies of street-level agents, and creating private alternatives to state regulation. Fine discusses that while these proposals are important, they fail to systematically incorporate the potential contributions of worker organizations to enforcement. As a result, they obscure a key element of labor inspection in much of the world and overlook the potential of co-producing enforcement. In nine US case studies, Fine finds evidence of an emergent system that harkens back to the original logic proposed by the drafters of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, but never implemented. This has failed to empower those closest to the action, with the most information and greatest incentives to give public interest groups like unions and worker centers an on-going role in enforcement to work in partnership with government in low wage labor markets.

For more information please call 858-822-4447