



Family of Strangers: The Dynamics of Brokering in Second-Generation Transnational Ties

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ERC Conference Room 115



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Armand Gutierrez is a doctoral candidate of sociology at UCSD and a Ford Foundation Fellow. His work utilizes quantitative and qualitative research to examine the transnational practices of Mexican- and Filipino-Americans, with a particular focus on generational status. He has several publications in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and *Global Networks*. His latest work “The Determinants of

Remittances among Second-Generation Mexican- and Filipino-Americans” was accepted for publication and awarded the PSA Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award and the Cristina Maria Riegos Distinguished Student Paper Award.

While scholars have examined the cross-border ties between migrants and nonmigrants, they have largely neglected the transnational ties among the children of migrants born in the host country, i.e. second-generation Americans. Earlier scholars of transnationalism argued that second-generation Americans would not engage in any cross-border ties as they often have only fleeting connections to those abroad, relatively low levels of linguistic and cultural proficiency, and typically no plans to return permanently to the ancestral home country. However, utilizing public survey data and interviews with Mexican- and Filipino-Americans, this research reveals the much larger scope of second-generation transnationalism. This talk discusses how first-generation migrants play a crucial role in facilitating second-generation American cross-border ties as they compensate for the lack of emotional attachments and logistical knowledge necessary for such connections. In addition, this research shows the ways in which country-to-country conditions shape the particularities of how these forms of cross-border ties emerge.

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