

CCIS Fall Seminar Series Presents:

Monday October 19th, 2015 12pm – 1:20 pm

ERC Administration Building, Conference Room 115



**Pierrette Hondagneu-
Sotelo**

**Professor, USC Department of Sociology
Co-Director— USC Center for the Study of
Immigrant Integration**

Urban Community Gardens as Home in the Immigrant Inner-City

Making, tending and enjoying gardens can be seen as place-making and home-making practices. In this talk, Professor Hondagneu-Sotelo argues that gardens and migration are intertwined in California, with particular consequences for inequality, work, leisure and status. Professor Hondagneu-Sotelo focuses her presentation on research she conducted in urban community gardens located in a poor Central American/Mexican neighborhood of Los Angeles. This research draws from the new book, *Paradise Transplanted: Migration and the Making of California Gardens* (University of California Press 2014)

A range of social reproductive and restorative activities normally associated with the private domestic sphere unfold at these community gardens, allowing us to see these places as shared open-air domiciles, hybrid-domestic places set among plant nature. Professor Hondagneu-Sotelo suggests that focusing on the everyday practices, and the materiality and meanings of place may productively shift our theoretical gaze from understanding migration experiences only through the lens of assimilation or transnationalism, and towards one that acknowledges active assertions organized

Professor Hondagneu-Sotelo researches immigrant communities in California, and has authored or edited nine books. In 2015, she was awarded the Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association's International Migration Section, and the Feminist Mentor Award from the Sociologists for Women in Society. Her latest book, Paradise Transplanted (University of California Press 2014), uses diverse sources to show how gardens in Southern California are sites of immigrant integration and engagement. She is currently studying Latina/o immigrant integration in historically African American areas of South Los Angeles.

For questions about this event, please call 858-822-4447