

CCIS WINTER SEMINAR SERIES:

S. DEBORAH KANG

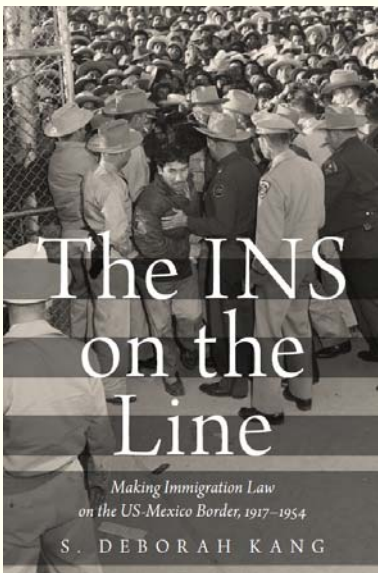
*Assistant Professor, History Department
California State University, San Marcos*

ALINA MÉNDEZ, Commentator

*Ph.D. Candidate, History Department
University of California, San Diego*

Monday, March 13th - 12:00pm

ERC Conference Room 115



The INS on the Line:

***Making Immigration Law on the US-Mexico Border,
1917-1954***

In *The INS on the Line*, S. Deborah Kang traces the ways in which the INS on the US-Mexico border made and remade the nation's immigration laws over the course of the twentieth century. Through a nuanced examination of the agency's legal innovations in the Southwest, Kang demonstrates that the agency defined itself not only as a law enforcement unit but also as a lawmaking body. In this role, the INS responded to the interests of local residents, businesses, politicians, and social organizations on both sides of the US-Mexico border as well as policymakers in Washington, DC. The composite approach to border control developed by the INS continues to inform the daily operations of the nation's immigration agencies, American immigration law and policy, and conceptions of the US-Mexico border today.

S. Deborah Kang is an assistant professor in the History Department at California State University, San Marcos. Her research focuses on the relationship between law and society along the nation's northern and southern borders and has been supported by grants from the Huntington Library and the Clements Center for Southwest Studies.

Alina Méndez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at UC San Diego. Her dissertation, entitled "Cheap for Whom? Family Migration and Labor in the Imperial-Mexicali Borderlands, 1942-1964," examines the Bracero Program in the eastern California-Baja California Norte borderlands.