



Suffer the Little Children: Unaccompanied Child Migrants and the Geopolitics of Compassion in Postwar America

Monday, December 2, 2019 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM



Anita Casavantes Bradford, PhD

Anita Casavantes Bradford is associate professor of Chicano/Latino Studies and History at the University of California Irvine, where she is also Co-Director of the UC-Cuba Multi Campus Academic Initiative. She earned her Ph.D. in 2011 in U.S. and Latina/o-Latin American History at the University of California San Diego. She was a Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection during 2010 and a University of California Presidents Postdoctoral Fellow from 2011-2013, before joining the faculty at UCI in July 2013. Her teaching focuses on comparative

and transnational Latina/o history, Cuban and Cuban American history, the history of immigration, race and ethnicity, the history of childhood, and critical refugee studies. In recognition of her campus service, Casavantes Bradford received the 2015 Dynamic Womyn of UCI Outstanding Social Justice Award; the 2016 Tom Angell Award; and the 2017 Social Science Dean's Award for Outstanding Mentorship. She is also the recipient of the 2019 UC Irvine Academic Senate Award for Mentorship.



Discussant: John Skrentny, PhD

John Skrentny is Director of the Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research and Professor of Sociology at UC San Diego. John's current projects include (with Kevin Lewis) a study of the adequacy of the STEM education-to-work "pipeline"; an analysis (with Michael Roach) of citizen and foreign STEM PhD employment in startups in the U.S.; and (with Mary Walshok) a mapping of research universities and adult STEM upskilling in five major U.S. cities. He is the author of *After Civil Rights: Racial Realism in the New American Workplace* (2014), *The Minority Rights Revolution* (2002), and

The Ironies of Affirmative Action (1996), as well as editor of *Color Lines* (2001) and two special issues of *American Behavioral Scientist* (2012; 1998). He is a former Guggenheim Fellow and his work has appeared in both scholarly and popular media.

In this talk, Anita Casavantes Bradford will share insights from her current book project, *Suffer the Little Children: Unaccompanied Child Migrants and the Geopolitics of Compassion in Postwar America*. In it, Casavantes Bradford analyzes how foreign policy as well as domestic political considerations shaped the migration or attempted migration of European children fleeing the perils of World War Two and its aftermath; Hungarian orphans and the sons and daughters of anti-Castro Cubans escaping communism during the 1950s and 1960s; Southeast Asian children transported to the U.S. during the 1970s and 1980s; and Latin American and Caribbean children seeking asylum of their own volition in the United States beginning in the final decades of the century.

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