



Struggles to be able to stay in place: Salvadoran migration and collective action in times of violence

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ERC Conference Room 115

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Joseph Wiltberger is Assistant Professor of Central American Studies at CSU Northridge and a Visiting Scholar with the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at UC San Diego. Joseph is a cultural anthropologist and holds a PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill. He has conducted extensive ethnographic field research in El Salvador and among transnational Central American migrants in the U.S and in border areas. His research has explored the forces driving the large-scale emigration of Salvadorans, and how local, national, and transnational organizations respond to their migration. His current work focuses on the conjuncture of forced migration driven by gang-related violence and insecurity in the northern triangle of Central America and the turn toward more restrictive immigration enforcement strategies in the U.S.

From the 1980-1992 civil war to the present, Salvadorans have endured and navigated various situations of violence and displacement in El Salvador and elsewhere as migrants. In this talk, I discuss how, in spite of such circumstances, Salvadorans work toward building possibilities to be able to stay in place. Based on my long-range ethnographic fieldwork in El Salvador and with Salvadoran migrants, I examine how mobility and collective action operate jointly as a key resource in these struggles.
