

**Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego
Chicanx and Latinx Studies Program, UC San Diego**

Maya and Ladino/a/x Guatemalan Labor Migrations: Intersections between Indigenous and Latinx Material Conditions in Southern

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time

In-person Event | Social Sciences PEB72 I



Presenter: Julio Orellana

Julio Orellana is a social-science scholar whose primary areas of research are Central American Studies and Latinx Politics. He has collaborated with local and transnational Guatemalan grassroots organizations and continues to do so. Julio's investigation examines international migration from Guatemala and migrant politics in Southern California. His book manuscript, *Maya and Ladino Guatemalan Labor Migrants and Civil Societies within Southern California's Political Economy*, examines the rise of indigenous and non-indigenous (ladino/a/x) Guatemalan migrants in Southern California and the social conditions that have given rise to their civic associations. Currently, Julio is a 2023-2025 University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Santa Barbara. Julio earned his Ph.D. in the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside.

This presentation examines the complex forces of neoliberalism, racial capitalism, and settler-capitalist states that shape forced international migration from Guatemala to the U.S. Moreover, the talk brings into conversation the work of Latin American dependency theory that examines migration through the prism of uneven development between core and peripheral capitalist economies. Building from this theoretical dialogue, my lecture answers the following questions: 1) what explains Guatemalan migration to Southern California? And 2) How do the racial and class dynamics found in Guatemala structure the social conditions and political formations among migrants in Southern California? The following research is based on approximately 200 face-to-face surveys, 30 qualitative interviews, and over three years of active participant observation in the Greater Los Angeles region.

For more information please email w2tam@ucsd.edu