

**FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

## “The Immigration Officers Are Always Around!”

### U.S. Immigration Enforcement and Ethnoracial Profiling in Immigrant Communities



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The U.S. immigration enforcement regime—consisting of everyday acts of surveillance, targeted workplace and home raids, ever-increasing removals and deportations, and highly-controversial immigration detention practices—has commanded increasing public attention as its budget balloons and as its purview expands. Yet ethnoracial profiling has been a cornerstone of immigration enforcement since the founding of the U.S. Border Patrol in 1924, targeting generations of Mexicans of all immigration statuses living in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. This talk focuses specifically on how Mexican immigrant families in the borderlands navigate immigrant policing, drawing on my two decades of ethnographic research in the region. I demonstrate the deleterious effects of these enforcement practices on these families’ lives, but also the strategies members have cultivated to contest them and fight for inclusion for their families and communities. Immigration enforcement has also been progressively infiltrating the U.S. interior over the last two decades, making these enforcement practices of pressing local concern to all of us. Drawing from my latest line of research with multiethnic immigrant young adults in Maryland, I highlight how these newer enforcement actions shape their lives as they contend with increasing immigration-related insecurity in the Trump era.

**2:00pm–3:30pm**

Pyon Su Room, Stamp Student Union  
University of Maryland College Park

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**Register: [bahaichair.umd.edu/events](https://bahaichair.umd.edu/events)**