

George Mason University's Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center (TraCCC) Hosts:

Gabriella E. Sanchez

Visiting Lecturer on Transnational Feminisms and Migration
Women and Gender Studies Department, Wellesley College

Violence as an Element of Irregular Border Crossings: Human Smuggling Operations in the US Southwest

Much has been written about the violence undocumented migrants face during their border crossing journeys into the U.S. Typically, human smugglers (the individuals who facilitate irregular border crossings for a fee) emerge as the executors of such acts. Yet empirical research on the prevalence of violence in human smuggling is scant, and much less is known about the groups that are assumed to be behind immigrants' victimization. How do smugglers view violence? What are the roles that violent acts play in smuggling operations? Can risk be reduced or eliminated? Based on ethnographic work conducted among members of human smuggling networks in the U.S. Southwest, Professor Gabriella Sanchez provides insights on the role and the forms of violence present in irregular border crossing processes.

Professor Sanchez is the 2012-2013 Visiting Lecturer on Transnational Feminisms and Migration at Wellesley College's Women and Gender Studies Department. An anthropologist by training, she is a graduate of Arizona State University's Justice and Social Inquiry Program. Her research interests include crime, migration, and national security discourses with a focus on border regions. Professor Sanchez has conducted fieldwork along the U.S. - Mexico Border, and in Central America, North Africa and the Middle East, where she has documented the experiences of the men and women involved in drug and human smuggling operations as traffickers/smugglers. A Boren and a Fulbright fellow, she was also a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Maryland's Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), where she led a study on transnational organized crime in Mexico and Central America.

Introduction given by Dr. Louise Shelley, Director of TraCCC

Date: Tuesday, March 19th, 2013, 12:00-1:30pm
Location: Room 121, Founders Hall
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201
(Virginia Square Metro Stop)

***Please Bring Lunch, Beverages Will Be Provided
To RSVP, Please contact Stu Mackenzie at tracc@gmu.edu or 703-993-9757***