

Queens College
Latin American and Latino Studies Program
Presents

Failing to See the Danger:

Conceptions of Pregnancy and Care Practices
among Mexican Immigrant Women in
New York City

Lecture by Alyshia Gálvez, Director of CUNY Institute of Mexican Studies

*Abstract from Risk, Reproduction
and Narratives of Experience*

The reproductive futures of Latina immigrant mothers have always been subject to scrutiny and a source of anxiety for those who see them as "excessively" fertile or their offspring as changing the composition of the nation. This article builds on ethnographic research among Mexican immigrant women in the prenatal clinic of a large public hospital in New York City. There, even in a progressive institution in a city that prides itself on the welcome it gives to new immigrants, discourses about the purportedly excessive childbearing of immigrant

women clash with the ideas that immigrant women and their families hold about building the right-sized family and navigating the treacherous landscape of health care, citizenship and social rights, benefits and discourses. While Mexican immigrant women achieve remarkably favorable birth outcomes in spite of facing many socioeconomic disadvantages, their efforts are not lauded but couched within racialized discourses about immigrant fertility that constrain the ways they imagine citizenship for their US-born children.

<http://www.vanderbiltuniversitypress.com>



If interested in a copy of colloquium paper, please contact
rperez1@qc.cuny.edu

When:

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

From 3:05-4:20PM

Where:

Latin American and Latino

Studies, Kissena Hall

Room 307

Alyshia Gálvez is associate professor and director of the CUNY Institute of Mexican Studies at Lehman College. A cultural anthropologist (PhD, NYU 2004), her work focuses on the efforts by Mexican immigrants in New York City to achieve the rights of citizenship.

Sponsored by:

QC Center for Teaching and Learning

QC Immigration Studies Working Group

CUNY Institute of Mexican Studies

