

Ana Villarreal, Boston University

“The Two Faces of Fear: Violence and Inequality in the Mexican Metropolis”



Thursday
October 29, 2026
12:30-1:50pm

Parkes 222
1870 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208

Description: Over the past two decades, increased criminal and state violence has profoundly transformed everyday life in Mexico. This book talk will draw on two years of qualitative fieldwork conducted during a major turf war in Monterrey, Mexico to trace the far-reaching impact of fear and violence on social ties, daily practices, and everyday spaces. The case brings two seemingly contradictory faces of fear into focus—its ability to both isolate and concentrate people and resources, deepening inequality—with relevance beyond Mexico and the "war on drugs."

Ana Villarreal is a sociologist specializing in the study of violence, emotions, urban dynamics, and their aggravating impact on socio-spatial divides in Latin America. She is Associate Professor of Sociology at Boston University.

**For Zoom info
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