

Shannon Malone Gonzalez, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“The Secrets of Silence: The Everyday Policing of Black Women and Their Stories about Violence”



Description: Why are black women’s experiences missing from official and unofficial accounts of police violence? Drawing on in-depth interviews, this talk traces black women’s searches for recognition after violent encounters with the police and other people in their lives. In analyzing their efforts to report and disclose violence, they show how officers and communities engage in invisible forms of everyday policing that render black women’s stories missing from official data, media headlines, and community conversations. Black women counter everyday policing through gathering—an alternative process that links the sharing of stories about violence and the co-creation of knowledge with the everyday work of building alternative pathways to safety and worldmaking.

Shannon Malone Gonzalez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and a Faculty Researcher at the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP) at UNC Chapel Hill. Her research draws from black feminism and critical criminology to examine the relationship between marginality and policing—in particular how black women and girls experience, understand, and resist police surveillance and violence. She is especially interested in institutional and communal knowledge production processes used to conceptualize and address police violence and other types of violence on the margins. Her research has received awards from the American Sociological Association, Association of Black Sociologists, and the Society for the Study of Social Problems and has been published in *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Gender & Society*, *Feminist Criminology*, and *Law & Society Review*.

Thursday
October 8, 2026
12:30-1:50pm

Parkes 222
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**For Zoom info
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