

**Spring 2022 Colloquium**  
**February 21, 2022 Noon**

**Teams Meeting**



*Transnational Parterria: The Feminist  
Genealogy of Borderlands Midwifery*

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1935, Felicitas Provencio was sent to an El Paso jail for practicing midwifery without certification, though she had assisted over 10,000 births in her 70-year career. Her imprisonment is one of many ways the U.S. colonized Latina bodies, and recovering midwives' voices requires sifting through layers of colonial discourse. My presentation explores the way that criminalization and memorialization are two interlinked colonial practices that functioned to contain the social power of women who assisted in the bodily and spiritual formation of Mexican American people along the U.S.-Mexico border. I argue that borderlands midwifery is a helpful metaphor and a material praxis of future Chicana feminist theory.