The Departments of Anthropology and Political Science/International Relations and the Latin American & Caribbean Studies Program present

**The Will to Security: Media, Populism, and the Politics of Crime**

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Since 2006, Venezuela has had the highest homicide rate of any country in South America (>50+ per 100,000) and one of the highest levels of gun-related violence in the world. While the late president Hugo Chávez downplayed the extent of the problem, the private press used fear of crime to rally opposition to the Venezuelan government. This talk examines the relationship between media and the politics of security in Venezuela. It is based on extensive fieldwork alongside crime journalists in Caracas. The core of my argument focuses on the production and circulation of mass mediated “denuncias” (denunciation) of crime. As a journalistic practice, the use of denuncias is widespread throughout Latin America. My research explains how mass mediated denunciations of crime functioned as the discursive scaffolding for a particular strain of populist mobilization. I argue that following the practices of crime journalists in Caracas reveals a broader pattern that underlies the rise of punitive populism in the Western Hemisphere.

**Wednesday, October 30, 4:00 pm**  
The Honors Center (College Hall)

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