

Women's Activism, Chicana Feminisms to be Explored Nov. 6 at UC San Diego

October 28, 2008

Jan Jennings

Dionne Espinoza, Ph.D., an associate professor of Chicano/a and Liberal Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, will give the inaugural talk for the Gracia Molina de Pick Latina Feminisms Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Cross-Cultural Center at the University of California, San Diego.

Espinoza's topic is *Out of the Movement Kitchen': Women's Activism in Chicano Movement Organizations and the Rise of Chicana Feminisms*.

"Professor Espinoza is one of the most original young scholars conducting research on Latina activism," says Jorge Mariscal, literature professor and director of the UCSD Chicano/a Latino/a Arts and Humanities Program (CLAH). "Her writings on the women Brown Berets and other Chicana organizations are groundbreaking."

Espinoza's research and teaching center on contemporary feminisms, women of color, cultural studies, and Chicano/a-Latin American social movements. She coauthored the anthology *Enriqueta Vasquez and the Chicano Movement: Writings from El Grito del Norte* (Arte Publico Press, 2006).

Espinoza received a Ph.D. in English from Cornell University. She has taught at UC Santa Barbara and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well at UC San Diego.

"The lecture series is made possible by a generous donation from Gracia Molina de Pick to the CLAH program at UCSD," Mariscal says. "Molina de Pick is a major figure in both the Chicano and women's movements of the late 1960s and 1970s. She was instrumental in establishing Chicano Studies programs at several colleges and universities in San Diego, including UCSD."

As Molina de Pick has said: "I began fighting for Chicano rights, even before Chicanos knew they were Chicanos."

In addition to her support of Chicanos, Molina de Pick has fought for women's rights, indigenous people, labor, immigrants and has served as a patron for the arts and an educator.

Mariscal says the annual Molina de Pick lecture series will go a long way toward addressing issues that have received little attention at UCSD for several decades, most notably feminism and women's activism in Latino communities.

The Espinoza lecture is sponsored by CLAH, the Cross-Cultural Center, and the Women's Center. For further information, call (858) 822-4059 or e-mail mmnaranjo@ucsd.edu.

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