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Central America, Human Rights, and Displacement

Nelson Portillo

Boston College

Nina Lakhani

The Guardian

Jeanne Rikkers

Cristosal, Cristosal, El Salvador and Honduras

Amparo Marroquin Perducci

Universidad José Simeón Cañas

Miranda Cady Hallett

University of Dayton, mhallett1@udayton.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Presenter/Author Information

Nelson Portillo, Nina Lakhani, Jeanne Ridders, Amparo Marroquin Perducci, Miranda Cady Hallett, and Amelia Frank-Vitale

Going Against the Grain

University of Dayton Human Rights Center
Social Practice of Human Rights Conference, Oct. 1-4, 2019

Central America, Human Rights, and Displacement

Presented by:

Nelson Portillo, *Boston College*

Nina Lakhani, *The Guardian*

Jeanne Ridders, *Cristosal, Cristosal, El Salvador and Honduras*

Amparo Marroquin Perducci, *Universidad José Simeón Cañas*

Miranda Cady Hallett, *University of Dayton*

Amelia Frank-Vitale, *University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

Session: Human Rights in Central America

Abstract:

While migration and displacement are not new phenomena in the region, parts of Central America are experiencing a crisis of displacement. This crisis has emerged due to the compounding effects of multiple factors: environmental degradation and climate change, economic upheavals caused by neoliberal reforms, political instability (especially in Honduras and Nicaragua), and violence stemming from corruption and organized crime. With a particular focus on factors related to violence and the deterioration of the rule of law, participants in this round table will describe and discuss the roots of displacement, the methodological and political challenges in documenting these migratory flows, and the risks and abuses faced by peoples in movement. Finally, the panelists will dialogue about strategies to support the empowerment of migrants, mobilize critical humanitarian aid, combat xenophobia and dehumanization, and compel states in the hemisphere to respect the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers. Participants in this panel have direct experience at the heart of this crisis, ranging from academic research and in-depth journalism to direct services, advocacy and activism.