

# DR. SILVIA BERMÚDEZ

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## "Storming the Fences: Movement and Migration in Contemporary Spanish Music"

As historians, sociologists, and media outlets have stated once and again, the current European migrant crisis is at its greatest point since the end of World War II, which is pitting European nation against European nation. One such case that has been constantly played out in the media is that of would-be migrants and asylum seekers actually "storming the fences" built between the borders of Hungary and Serbia, which then creates havoc not only within the migrant crisis but also with old tensions in the Balkans. This talk focuses on the literal and symbolic connotations of "storming fences" to address how Spain, at the turn of the 21st Century, foreshadowed the current European crisis due to it being at a geographical crossroads of imagined communities as a result from the circulation of peoples and cultures between Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Particular attention will be paid to songs from the 1990s and the first decade of the 21st Century to assess how music narrated an unofficial history of migration because of the ebbs and flows of populations moving across the Mediterranean Basin, and to assess how the songs addressed issues of gender, race, and patterns of exclusion.

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2015

Time: 5pm

Location: Houser Hall 3031

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