

OLLAS CHARLA SERIES



Office of Latino/  
Latin American  
Studies

# TRUE STORIES OF "ILLEGAL" BORDER CROSSINGS: NARRATING THE NON-NATION

**Friday, October 12, 2007**

**11:30 am**

**MBSC, Nebraska Room**

Featuring

**Dr. Marta Caminero-Santangelo**

Associate Professor of English and founder of Latino Studies at the  
University of Kansas



The first decade of the new millennium has seen a flurry of non-fiction books telling engrossing stories of undocumented immigrant crossings, deaths, and mutilations at the border. These accounts have been spurred by highly publicized deaths of large numbers of border crossers in the late 1990s and early 2000s due to dehydration, suffocation, and heat stroke--deaths that have been attributed to changes in immigration policy enforcement. What, if anything, do these stories--often written with the gripping intensity of novels--have in common with Humanitarian Aid groups such as No Mas Muertes (No More Deaths) and Humane Borders? How might they be read as enacting various forms of ethical intervention, similar to that of Latin American testimonios in earlier decades, and how likely is such intervention to actually work?

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