

# The Origins of Latino Grand Rapids: Community Building and Panethnic Identity Formation from the 1940s to the 1970s

Based on primary sources like church and jail records as well as oral histories, Fernández traces how and why Latinos came to West Michigan. This lecture reveals how Latinos, namely Mexicans and Puerto Ricans, negotiated their relationship with one another and the spaces they lived in to make West Michigan their home. From dances to baseball games to festivals, these two groups formed the origins of a Latino community in the 1940s that has continued to the present.

Thursday,  
Sep. 22, 2016

2:00-3:15 pm

Kirkhof Center  
Room 2263



LIB100/201  
Approved!

Co-sponsored by  
History Department



Professor Fernández is a historian of Latina/o history whose work focuses on how Latina/os use panethnic identity to garner more political, social, and economic rights in the twentieth century. She is currently working on her manuscript entitled, *Negotiating Latinidad: Identity, Community, and Civil Rights Activism in Post War Michigan*.