

The Gender & Women's Studies Program's Annual Spring Speaker Series: *Mothering in the Time of COVID*

Thursday, February 24, 2022
6:30 CST on ZOOM
Open to the Public for free

Pandemic Epistemologies: What Higher Education Can Learn from Faculty Mothers of Color and Its Responsibility to Act On It

Virtual schooling, closed daycares, tenure files, research delays, unending service. It is clear: faculty mothers are not ok. What can higher education learn from what faculty mothers, particularly mothers of color, have experienced during the pandemic...and what is their responsibility to act on it? In this talk, Dr. Larissa Mercado-López shares her experiences of mothering, teaching, and leading two collective efforts to support faculty parents and women of color faculty during the pandemic. Drawing from her own work on maternal facultad and Sara Ahmed's work on complaint as feminist pedagogy, she discusses how faculty mothers of color are thinking through their intersections to imagine and call for a more just, equitable, and feminist future for higher education.

Dr. Larissa M. Mercado-López, Professor of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, teaches courses on women of color feminisms, Chicana feminism, and Latinx Health, at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Mercado-Lopez has published works on Latinx literature, Chicana children's literature, and higher education, and proudly serves as Book Review Editor for Chicana/Latina Studies Journal.. Her public scholarship on faculty of color and student parents has appeared in The Hill, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, The Fresno Bee, and Spark, a publication of the National Center for Institutional Diversity. At Fresno State, she actively engages in student and faculty success work, particularly for student parents and women of color faculty. At the system level, she serves as Director of the statewide CSU Student Success Network Conference.



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