



presents the Spring 2016

COLLOQUIA SERIES

**NEW RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND GENDER
GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES**

FRIDAY, April 29

1:30-3:00PM

303 INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Ruben Parra Cardona

**Department of Human Development &
Family Studies/Research Consortium
on Gender-based Violence**

Implementing Culturally Adapted Parenting Interventions with Low Income Latino/a Parents: Addressing Cultural and Gender Challenges

Underserved ethnic minority populations continue to be affected by intense mental health disparities in the United States, particularly if they are not likely to access the services they need to improve their quality of life. Community-based culturally adapted parenting interventions constitute a highly promising alternative to reduce health disparities by offering efficacious interventions to diverse populations, in ways that are culturally meaningful and relevant to their life experiences. This presentation will describe an applied cultural adaptation program of research implemented with underserved Latino/a families with children ages 4-12. Grounded in community-based collaborations, the history of the program will be presented along with reports from participants describing their satisfaction with the adapted parenting interventions. Parents' reports will also focus on describing the ways in which the acquired parenting skills helped them to improve their parenting practices, particularly if they were engaged in risky parenting behaviors (e.g., spanking, yelling). A gender-informed perspective will be described, which led to high retention rates of families (87%) and fathers (85%), while embracing a collaborative approach that was used to question fathers' controlling behaviors whenever it was applicable.

Ruben Parra Cardona is an Associate Professor in MSU's program of couple and family therapy, and Associate Director of MSU's Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence. His current research is focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect through the cultural adaptation of evidence-based parenting interventions for Latino/a populations. He also conducts research on the cultural relevance of services for Latina survivors as well as Latino men who batter and abuse. His parenting prevention research targeting Latino/a families with young children has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Currently he is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to expand his prevention research to target Latino/a families with young adolescents ages 12-14. His clinical experience has included the provision of services to Latino/a children living and/or working in the streets and engaged in drug trafficking and survival sex, child and adult victims of sexual abuse and violence, federal adult probationers convicted for drug trafficking, Latino/a parents, and Latino/a youth involved in the justice system.

This event is free and open to the public.