

The UCLA Spanish and Portuguese Department Proudly Presents

2014 Lois E. Matthews Lecture

“Legal, Illegal: Jewish and Latino Immigration”

by Professor

Bridget Kevane

Montana State University



Thursday, April 10th

4:00 pm

Charles E. Young Research Library
Presentation Room

Open to the public

Refreshments will be served

In 2011 Josh Nathan-Kazis, of the *Forward*, reported that one of the most interesting inter-ethnic relationships of the 21st century would be that between American Jews and Latinos. When the 2000 census revealed the unprecedented growth of Hispanics in the United States, Jewish organizations made a concerted effort to connect with Latino communities on issues ranging from labor and voting rights to education and health care. But at the center of this millennial alliance stands immigration reform. As Jewish groups engage with Latinos on immigration, they tend to appeal to the symbolic and stirring call that they too were once immigrants and that they remember what it is like to *be* an immigrant. Do they? Is their shared narrative of immigration imagined or symbolic? In answering these questions, I hope to illuminate the complexities of the Latino-Jewish relationship in the 21st century.