



Dr. LUIS FERNANDO RESTREPO

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Luis Fernando Restrepo is a professor of Latin American Studies and the Associate Vice Provost for Diversity at the University of Arkansas. He has an M.A. and Ph.D. in Latin American literature from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in Philosophy and Literature from the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellin, Colombia. He has been visiting professor at the Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, and the Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, as a Fulbright scholar. His publications and courses in Latin American studies focus on literature and human rights, the conquest of America and its legacies, and past and present indigenous America, bilingualism and Latino education.

THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF U.S. LATINO EDUCATION REFLECTIONS FROM THE NEW SOUTH

This presentation reflects on the cultural politics of Latino/a education in the U.S. based on my experience as a Spanish college professor designing a meaningful curriculum for Heritage speakers and involved in developing and coordinating the recruitment, retention, outreach and advocacy initiatives of the University of Arkansas, the main research university in the state, in my capacity as Assistant Vice Provost for Diversity. I believe that there is the need for a critical view of the public discourses informing educational policies and practices related to diversity and minority populations in the U.S.. What is at stake ultimately is the role of the University as an institution and academic knowledge in the cultural politics redefining the space of Latinos in the U.S. in a time when Latinos are projected to be the largest growing segment of the U.S. population. I focus on two interrelated issues, first the problematic practices and language of diversity units in higher education institutions and second the language cultural politics and policies in k-12 education in new Latino destinations like Northwest Arkansas. I believe that the demographic projections call for a vision to develop a coherent long term social and cultural justice agenda.

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collaboration with Hispanic Studies**

**Thursday, November 1 2012
4:00 pm - SSC 5220
Refreshments 3:30pm – SSC 5230**

All Welcome !

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