Call for Papers:
The Annual University of Texas at El Paso Borderlands History Conference
Shifting Borders: Gender, Family, and Community

February 10-11, 2017, El Paso, Texas
Submission deadline: September 16, 2016
Presented by the UTEP Department of History

Keynote Speaker: Sonia Hernández (Texas A&M), author of Working Women into the Borderlands and Project Leader for the “Refusing to Forget” preservation and public history project

The Department of History at the University of Texas at El Paso announces the second annual UTEP Borderlands History Conference to be held February 10-11, 2017. This year’s theme, Shifting Borders: Gender, Family, and Community, encourages scholars of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands to explore the myriad ways social norms have been constructed, have changed over time, and have been influenced by the unique opportunities, obstacles, and paradoxes of la frontera. This inquiry into the lives of borderlanders, though not new, is today flourishing in novel ways. Since at least the late 1970s, borderlands scholars have blended social historical approaches with borderlands history to describe the lived experiences of borderlands people. More recently, the field has shifted toward the construction of identity in the borderlands, drawing on new approaches to race and gender and paving the way for new lines of research, including new interest in communities and families. Since then, scholars have applied the tools of women’s studies and cultural history to borderlands history.

This conference seeks to build on this inquiry, inviting proposals that explore the history of gender, family, and community in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Papers exploring these themes may do so through such lenses as:

- race, identity, and indigeneity;
- class, development, and capitalism;
- nation and state building;
- families and communities as nodes of resistance;
- globalization and transnationality;
- hybridity, inclusion, and exclusion;
- violence, colonization, and memory; and
- the body, desire and sexuality, and queer theory.

We welcome proposals for individual papers or 3-4 person panels from scholars at all stages of their careers, including advanced doctoral students. Each paper proposal should include a 250-word abstract and one-page CV. Panel proposals also should contain a short (200 words max) description of the connecting theme and should include scholars from both the U.S. and Mexico. Papers may be in Spanish or English, and translation will be provided. Papers may be considered for publication.

Please email inquiries and proposals to historyconference@utep.edu. The deadline for submission is September 16, 2016. Visit borderhistoryconf.utep.edu for updates and additional information.