

# El Norte

A FILM BY GREGORY NAVA

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 / 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PDT)  
with  
COLIN GUNCKEL AND MIRASOL ENRÍQUEZ



CARSEY-WOLF  
CENTER

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Oliver Gau





Gregory Nava's 1983 epic film *El Norte* tells the story of a Guatemalan brother and sister (David Villalpando as Enrique, and Zaide Silvia Gutierrez as Rosa) who flee persecution and journey north along the length of Mexico, with a dream of finding a new home in the United States.

Colin Gunckel (University of Michigan) and Mirasol Enríquez (University of Texas – Austin) will join moderator Ross Melnick (UCSB) for a discussion of *El Norte*. Please note this event will not include a screening. Registered participants will receive a link to screen the film two days in advance of the event.

This event is sponsored by the Carsey-Wolf Center.

## BORDERS

Borders are at once physical and imaginary, embedded on the ground, imposed upon populations, and played out across the sea. The Carsey-Wolf Center's spring 2021 public programming series explores borders, borderlands, and frontiers as they are cinematically, politically, technologically, and archivally mediated. The series engages with a range of borders: the US-Mexico border, an ICE detention center in Florida, the aqueous borders across which migrants journey to Europe, and the changeable border that separates India and Bangladesh. The series interrogates different geographical terrains and forms of crossing and detainment in an effort to encourage viewers to embark on an intellectual journey of their own. Through films and media strategies that themselves traverse the boundaries between narrative and documentary, this series explores the messy, evolutionary character of all borders, approaching them as places—both embodied and discursive—where new social relations are worked out, and where emerging struggles become legible.



# Colin Gunckel (University of Michigan)

Colin Gunckel is a historian of Latina/o and Mexican popular culture, art, and media. He is currently an associate professor of film, television, and media, American culture and Latina/o studies at the University of Michigan and the author of *Mexico on Main Street: Transnational Film Culture in Los Angeles before World War II* (Rutgers University Press, 2015). He has published essays in the journals *American Quarterly*, *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, *Film History*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *Social Justice*, and *Velvet Light Trap*, in addition to editing multiple edited collections and exhibition catalogs, including *LA RAZA* (UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, 2020). He also serves as Associate Editor of the *A Ver: Revisioning Art History* monograph series on individual Latino/a artists, published by the UCLA CSRC.



# Mirasol Enríquez (University of Texas - Austin)

Mirasol Enríquez is the Acting Director of the Moody College's Latino Media Arts and Studies program, and an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Departments of Radio-Television-Film and Mexican American and Latina/o Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. As a film and media scholar and arts administrator, she has devoted her career to community building through film and the arts. Her scholarship focuses on U.S.-based Latina producers of narrative feature films and media production culture, Chicana/o film, independent film, and representations of race and gender in media. Her article, "Josey Faz: Traces of a Tejana in Chicana/o Film History," was recently published in *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*, and she and Dr. Mary Beltrán are currently co-editing a special issue of *Feminist Media Histories* on the topic of Latina Media Histories, which is forthcoming in the fall of 2021. Dr. Enríquez has been a guest curator for the Cine Las Americas International Film Festival in Austin, and she served as the Director of Community Media for the Austin Film Society, where she oversaw their education programs and spearheaded the community media program at Austin Public, the community media center AFS manages for the city of Austin.





# Moderator Ross Melnick

Ross Melnick specializes in U.S. and global film exhibition, media industry studies, film and media history, archival theory and practice, silent cinema, and moving image journalism. He is the co-editor of *Rediscovering U.S. Newsfilm: Cinema, Television and the Archive* (AFI/Routledge, 2018) and the author of *American Showman: Samuel 'Roxy' Rothafel and the Birth of the Entertainment Industry, 1908-1935* (Columbia University Press, 2012). His articles have been published in journals such as *Cinema Journal*, *Film History*, *The Moving Image*, and *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* and he was named an Academy Film Scholar and a NEH Fellow for his forthcoming book on Hollywood's global exhibition operations from 1923-2013.







# BORDERS

## SPRING 2021

All events are free and open to the public. Events will be conducted via Zoom webinar. Visit [www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu](http://www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu) to register.

### **Borders: *El Norte***

Thursday, April 8 / 4:00 PM PDT  
with Colin Gunckel (University of Michigan)  
and Mirasol Enríquez (University of Texas – Austin)

### **Borders: *Char . . . The No-Man's Island***

Thursday, April 15 / 7:00 PM PDT  
with writer/director Sourav Sarangi

### **Borders: *Forensic Oceanography and the Aesthetics of Borders***

Friday, April 30 / 12:00 PM PDT  
with Charles Heller and Lorenzo Pezzani

### **Borders: *The Infiltrators***

Thursday, May 6 / 4:00 PM PDT  
with co-directors Cristina Ibarra and Alex Rivera

### **Borders: *John Ware Reclaimed***

Thursday, May 13 / 4:00 PM PDT  
with director Cheryl Foggo

Visit [www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu](http://www.carseywolf.ucsb.edu)  
to learn more about the Carsey-Wolf Center.

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