Sanctuary and the Homelessness Crisis: Rethinking the Growth of Skid Row, Los Angeles

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Comunidad Room, Cross Cultural Center

The homeless crisis of the 1980s catapulted Los Angeles into the “homeless capital” of the nation. This talk examines how U.S. Cold War immigration policies structured the arrival of undocumented Salvadoran immigrants and their resettlement in Skid Row, as well as broader activist understandings of “sanctuary” that exceeded the legal battle to obtain a stay of deportation for Salvadorans to include sheltering the homeless.

Cindy I-Fen Cheng is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Program in Asian American Studies at UW-Madison. She is the award-winning author of Citizens of Asian America: Democracy and Race during the Cold War (NYU Press, 2013) and editor of The Routledge Handbook of Asian American Studies (Routledge Press, 2016).

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