



Center for the Study of Injustice – Center for Migration Research presents:

Brent Metz and Suzanne Gladney

Stay or leave? Perspectives on Immigration and Migrant Labor from Both Sides of the Border

Brent Metz, professor of anthropology, has published widely on the changing quality of life and politics of identity among impoverished Ch'orti'-Maya and mestizo communities in eastern Guatemala, western Honduras, and northwestern El Salvador. His current research focuses on climate change, water insecurity and management, and migration in southern Mesoamerica.

Suzanne Gladney is an immigration attorney and Director of the Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund (MFAF), a Kansas City-based non-profit organization that serves and empowers Missouri's farmworkers. She founded the Migrant Farmworkers Project, now known as MFAF, in 1984. MFAF not only provides services for migrant families during their temporary work stay, but also serves families who settle permanently in Lafayette County.

Gary Reich, Moderator, associate professor of political science.

Immigration policy debates are increasingly focused on preventing the flight of Latin Americans and Caribbeans who are leaving their home countries in search of economic and/or physical security in the US. At the same, many sectors of the US economy—including in Kansas and Missouri—draw migrants from these same countries, who often work and live under punishing and exploitative conditions. To what extent can the US reconcile the goals of incentivizing potential migrants to remain in their home countries while the country's labor markets simultaneously induce their exodus? This moderated conversation will feature Suzanne Gladney, Director of the Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund (Kansas City, Missouri) and Brent Metz, KU professor of anthropology, who will discuss the forces driving Central Americans from their home communities and the challenge of creating more humane working and living conditions once migrant laborers arrive in the region.

3:30-5:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 30th
Malott Room, Kansas Union
Simulcast via Zoom

For questions, accommodations and Zoom information, please email Christie Holland at christieh@ku.edu

Masks will be required for all attendees. The [KU policy on masks](#) outlines full requirements.

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