

# MICHAEL KEARNEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Thursday, March 19, 3:30-5:20, Alvarado E

Keynote Speaker:

Federico Besserer (U Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City)

Commentators:

Sarah Horton (UC-Denver) and Susan Bibler Coutin (UC-Irvine)

The Lecture celebrates the life and work of Michael Kearney, late of the University of California, Riverside.

Each year, the Lecture Committee selects an outstanding scholar whose presentation will explore the intersection of three themes - migration, human rights, transnationalism. These three themes were central to Prof. Kearney's scholarship. They were first explored in his doctoral research ("The Winds of Ixtepeji"). His subsequent research led to a greater involvement in the formulation of public policy, and the commitment to use his discipline to understand and assist the development of indigenous migrant organizations.



Dr. Besserer has worked extensively on problem-solving research in association with traditional governments of transnational communities stretching across México and the United States. In 1999 Dr. Besserer and Dr. Michael Kearney (UCR) launched a research and teaching collaboration, committed to problems and questions regarding the lives and wellbeing of transnational peoples. Among other books, his work on transnational communities includes the research results of a collective ethnography edited with Michael Kearney: *San Juan Mixtepec. A Transnational Community Facing the Classifying and Filtering Power of Borders* (*San Juan Mixtepec. Una comunidad transnacional ante el poder clasificador y filtrador de las fronteras*). Juan Pablos, Editor – UAM. (2006)

In the last ten years, Dr. Besserer has conducted a research project with a global reach, including Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, exploring how transnational urban spaces such as transnational streets and neighborhoods, articulate the margins of the cities into a planetary network to which we can refer as the transnational city. One of the books resulting from this project is *Urban Intersections. Transnational City / Global City* (*Intersecciones urbanas. Ciudad transnacional / Ciudad global*) Juan Pablos, Editor – UAM (2016). His latest book, *Transnational Studies. Anthropological Keys*. (*Estudios transnacionales. Claves desde la antropología*). Juan Pablos, Editor – UAM (2019) explores the encounters and dis-encounters of theoretical and practical perspectives in the construction of the field of transnational studies.

Federico Besserer received a master's degree from the Department of Anthropology at UCR, and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Stanford University. He is professor at the Department of Anthropology of the Autonomous Metropolitan University, Campus Iztapalapa (UAM-I) in México.