Mariza Baeza

**Thesis title:** Diseased, Dirty, and Dangerous: Immigrant Discourse in Primetime Television

**Key words:** anti-immigrants, Latino immigrants, Latino Threat Theory, disease, television, Lou Dobbs, Bill O’Reilly, Glenn Beck, Arizona SB 1070

This work aims to analyze Latino immigrant speech on nationally viewed televised platforms leading up to the passage of anti-immigrant legislation in Arizona and now Alabama. This thesis provides an in-depth look at media trends regarding the way Latinos and immigrants have been framed in news media, and concludes with an examination of three recurring themes in three political commentators’ prime time television programs: Lou Dobbs Tonight, The O’Reilly Factor, and the Glenn Beck Program. Among some of the most problematic themes on these shows are: 1) The repetition of inaccurate information designed to instill fear and resentment toward Latino immigrants, 2) The on-air promotion of anti-immigrant extremist groups, and 3) Presenting as fact the Reconquista conspiracy theory. These findings are indicative of the consistency with which Dobbs, O’Reilly, and Beck broadcast white supremacist-like opinions to millions of people on their nationally viewed television portals and how they might possibly have influenced people’s support of Arizona SB 1070 and its copycats.
Through this thesis, the topic of the invisibility of police brutality is explored. It seeks to express the ways in which Latino youth in Chicago have obstacles that set them up to join street gangs. My personal journey through the life of street gangs and the murder of my cousin are used as evidence of the invisibility of police brutality. Also, by drawing on the work of David Brotherton and Luis Barrios in their book “The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation: Street Politics and the Transformation of a New York City gang,” I seek to prove the ways in which Latino youth are oppressed and to explain the street politics that conflict with social ethics. Social ethics have a great significance because they are made up and influenced by pop culture, which leads to the media misrepresenting Latino youth when it comes to police brutality. This thesis is important because it gives voice and sheds some light on what otherwise is a dark alley of hopelessness and desperation in which Latino youth live; it points out the different ways in which police brutality is now practiced, in the worst way possible, invisibly.
Crystal De La Huerta

**Thesis title:** Left Behind: No Child Left Behind and the Limitations on Education in Chicago Public Schools

**Key words:** education, equality, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Latinos, standardized testing

“Left Behind: No Child Left Behind and the Limitations on Education in Chicago Public Schools” examines the No Child Left Behind policy (NCLB) enacted in 2002 that places standardized testing as the top priority in evaluating and educating students across the country. In doing so, my thesis concentrates on the limitations NCLB has placed on teachers, students, and the education system. By analyzing NCLB’s limitations, this paper focuses on its direct effects on the Chicago Public School System, one of the largest public school systems in the country. No Child Left Behind, in an attempt to improve the education system, has instead created a greater problem for those who participate within the education system. It has become a policy of exclusion rather than inclusion.

This thesis critiques No Child Left Behind and examines the implications it has had on students of color, the poor, and bilingual students. Additionally, this thesis provides background on No Child Left Behind and examines its ties to other educational bureaucracies, specifically within Illinois. Moreover, it analyzes the policies and regulations enacted by No Child Left Behind and how teachers are struggling to provide their students with a high quality education. By analyzing these regulations and policies along with statistics, this thesis shows what things are being done to challenge No Child Left Behind and the recent changes being done to improve a broken education system.
Oscar Medina

**Thesis title:** Creating a Space Within Fraternities: Latinos at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Key words:** Latino, Fraternity, Masculinity, Brotherhood, Culture, Space, Heteronormative

In this thesis I examine concepts of masculinity, space and brotherhood within Latino fraternities at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). In addition, I also look at the history of fraternities from the start of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776 to the most recent ones seen in the Latino population. Being home to the largest Greek system, UIUC offers an ideal site to situate inquiries based on masculinity, space and brotherhood. My analysis will focus on a critical examination of rituals, initiations, recruitment strategies and practices through in-depth individual interviews among seven individuals. As part of this study, I also draw relationships between the rise of Latino fraternities as a space due to the different social gatherings that are thrown by Caucasian fraternities, such as “The Tacos and Tequila Party” and “The Compton Cookout”. When these spaces are constructed and emulated by Latinos through fraternities, I scrutinize the way in which they reinforce a heteronormative lifestyle.