



UCD School of Geography Seminar Series

Asst Prof Solange Muñoz, University of Tennessee

Migration and Motherhood as Infrastructures of Care

Date: 6th October 2022

Time: 15:00 – 16:00

Format: Hybrid

Where: E003, Newman Building

Zoom: <https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/67337697877?pwd=UXhyc2t3ZzRrMlVMd0s2NFpYMXh2QT09>

Abstract: This presentation explores, through a care infrastructures framework, the migratory strategies and experiences of Latin American women and mothers who are forced to migrate, in order to be able to take care of themselves and their families. Through this approach, infrastructure is considered in its multiple iterations to understand how it is representative of the experience of migration and motherhood. Specifically, I consider how infrastructure failures, understood as a form of slow violence, force women and mothers to migrate, and the ways that migration becomes an infrastructure that women employ in order to be able to “mother” and care for themselves, their children, and families over time. The literature on the “infrastructure turn” identifies these practices as alternate or lively forms of infrastructure (Amin, 2014; Alam and Houston, 2020), often produced by those traditionally on the margins of more formalized, state-run infrastructure regimes. These and other conceptualizations are drawn on to imagine the ways that women and mothers employ migration and infrastructures to (re)produce practices of mothering and care from afar and/or from and in multiple spaces.

About the presenter: Solange Muñoz is an urban and cultural geographer and a Latin Americanist with long-standing interests in the political, economic, and socio-spatial processes of inequality, marginalization, and contestation in the urban landscapes of Latin America and the U.S. Her research engages with current debates on the social and spatial consequences of globalization, neoliberal urban development, and gentrification with focus on the social and spatial significance of housing, home, and infrastructures in the urban landscape. She is interested in the microscale and focus on the emotional and material impacts of housing precarity, and the threat of eviction and displacement on immigrant and traditionally marginalized communities. Her research explores the livelihood strategies that individuals and communities develop to counteract the often-negative impacts of neoliberal processes on their lives, and how these practices and forms of resistance provide alternative models for making neighbourhoods, communities, and cities more inclusive and sustainable in the long-term.