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Remembering Conquest in Texas

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“Remembering Conquest in Texas”

Omar Valerio-Jiménez
University of Texas at San Antonio

Wednesday November 30
6pm to 7pm

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Berets march right into the El Paso barrios.

This presentation draws from Dr. Valerio-Jiménez’s larger project, *Remembering Conquest: Mexican Americans, Memory, and Citizenship*, which explores the influence of collective memories of the U.S.-Mexico War (1846-48) on struggles for social change among Mexican Americans. It examines the collective memories disseminated among ethnic Mexicans through families, publications, and organizations. These memories offered alternative views of the war that not only challenged the dominant versions, but were invoked by Mexican Americans to remind the nation of the war’s continuing legacies. The war instigated immediate intergroup conflict between European Americans and ethnic Mexicans that bore long-term effects by shaping the ways that the latter remembered the aggression and the promises of equality in the treaty that ended the war. The failure of the U.S. government to enforce the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo led to some of these legacies, namely the consequences of Mexican Americans’ status as second-class citizens. “Remembering Conquest in Texas” explores how various groups in the state held different war memories, and examines the multiple ways in which these memories of the war and its aftermath inspired Mexican Americans’ civil rights struggles over several generations.