

Book launch: Watchful Lives in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

Thursday, 20 April 2023, 6 pm, werkstatt-galerie-münchen, Zentnerstraße 3

SFB 1369 Cultures of Vigilance, LMU Munich

with the book's authors, Jonathan Alderman (LMU Munich), Eveline Dürr (LMU Munich), Carolin Luiprecht, Catherine Whittaker (Goethe Universität Frankfurt), and artivist Nanzi Muro (San Diego). The event will be chaired by Christiane Brenner (LMU Munich).

The book launch will involve a discussion of Watchful Lives in San Diego followed by a reception and a vernissage for the exhibition "El Chaparral: From Tijuana through San Diego to Munich, Germany" by Nanzi Muro. Nanzi is a fronteriza artivist based in San Diego, who through her work advocates for social change and gives voice to the voiceless, by raising awareness of the histories, perspectives, and biographies of the borderland and migrant communities in Mexico and in the U.S. Her work will be on display from 19 April to 29 April 2023.

Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 1pm – 6:30pm, Saturday 10 am – 1pm.

If you wish to attend the book launch and vernissage, please email Nele Guderian nele.guderian@campus.lmu.de by 14 of April 2023 (this will help us to plan catering).

Watchful Lives in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

"Watchful Lives" is a groundbreaking book based on collective ethnographic research in San Diego, California that will take you on a journey to uncover how Chicanxs, Latinxs, and other marginalized communities respond to racism and surveillance in their everyday lives. This book goes beyond conventional approaches to counter-surveillance and sheds light on how watchfulness shapes the subjectivity of individuals and collective political struggles. Through powerful examples of consciousness-raising, protests, healing practices, and the re-claiming of urban space, the authors reveal how contestations surrounding belonging create particularly watchful selves in borderland lifeworlds.

Watchful Lives pays attention to important topical themes such as borderlands, coloniality, subjectivity, struggle, the racialized body, and the digital sphere. It draws on a wide range of innovative research methods including team fieldwork, digital ethnography, and visual contributions from artivist Nanzi Muro.

Join the authors, who are anthropologists at different career stages, and Nanzi Muro in this exciting journey to understand borderland life and the watchfulness inherent to living in a borderland from multiple perspectives.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to this event and to some inspiring conversations.