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Title of workshop: Major cities and informal networks: Transnational analysis

Co-organizer 1: Marika Morris
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Presenter 1: Laura Lee Roush
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 Organization: El Colegio de Michoacan
 Title: Imagined Communities and relations of protection: La Santa Muerte and informal commerce in Tepito, Mexico

Presenter 2: Felipe de Alba
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 Organization: MIT
 Title: The governance of uncertainty: *La Familia* as a figure of narco-clientelism in Mexico

Presenter 3: David Kyle and Sarah Zimmerman
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 Organization: University of California at Davis and SEIU Local 1000
 Title: International Bankers and Migrant Smugglers: Converging Perceptions and Regulation Debates During the Global Recession

Presenter 4: Nik Theodore
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 Organization: University of Illinois Chicago
 Title: Day labour and unauthorized immigration in the U.S.: Informality and exploitation

Presenter 5: Brett Kubicek
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 Organization: Sécurité publique Canada
 Title: The Canadian perspective on informal networks

Abstract

Building on research from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, this panel is organised around the following question: *Under what conditions do informal activities* (informal settlements, informal work, informal commerce and exchange, services, etc.) *become illicit and punishable under the law?* This question emerges from a reflection on the linkages between informality, violence, and insecurity in societies (and particularly in major cities) where the regulative functions of the state are becoming inoperative under the pressure of globalizing processes. The processes of bureaucratic rationality and individuation developed by the modern state are competing with transnational community processes that are constructing alternative identities and loyalties, *alternative imagined communities* that contribute to fragment and weaken state legitimacy. This results in competing globalizations of formal and informal networks. The objective of this workshop is to open a discussion on the role of public policies challenged by informal networks and reflect on the ambiguous and interdependent relation between the licit and the illicit.