



Seth M. Holmes

University of California, Berkeley

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

4:00pm-5:30pm

Music Room 176, Concert Hall

Panel Guests:

Seth M. Holmes

University of California, Berkeley

Kitty Calavita

University of California, Irvine

Maria Echaveste

Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, UC Berkeley

About the Book:

Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies is an ethnographic witness to the everyday lives and suffering of Mexican migrants. Based on five years of research, Holmes uncovers how market forces, anti-immigrant sentiment, and racism undermine health and health care. He lived with indigenous Mexican families in the mountains of Oaxaca and in farm labor camps in the United States, planted and harvested corn, picked strawberries, accompanied sick workers to clinics and hospitals, participated in healing rituals, and mourned at funerals for friends. The result is a "thick description" that conveys the full measure of struggle, suffering, and resilience of these farmworkers. This reflexive, embodied anthropology deepens our theoretical understanding of the ways in which socially structured suffering comes to be perceived as normal and natural in society and in health care especially through imputations of ethnic body difference. This book provides the necessary stories of real people and insights into our food system and health care system for us to move forward to fair policies and solutions.

About the Author:

Seth M. Holmes is Martin Sisters Endowed Chair Assistant Professor in the UC Berkeley School of Public Health's Community Health and Human Development Division and the Graduate Program in Medical Anthropology. He received his Ph. D. in Medical Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco, and his M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by the Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars program at Columbia University. His work focuses broadly on the role that perceptions of difference play in the production and reproduction of social hierarchies and health inequalities. Dr. Holmes is currently initiating ethnographic research in California exploring the social, cultural, and political logics for HIV death rates of specific classes of people, notably Latino migrant day laborers. He also maintains a clinical work in HIV primary care and palliative care in the California public health system.