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CITIZENS' MEDIA AND WAR

THE COLOMBIAN CASE

APRIL 12, 4-5:15PM

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In many Colombian communities, civilians live in the shadow of armed intruders including leftist guerillas, right-wing paramilitary groups, the army, and drug traffickers. Under these conditions, Rodríguez argues, grassroots media that are deeply embedded in the communities they serve, and responsive to immediate and long-term local needs, strengthen the ability of community members to productively respond to violent incursions. Here she presents part of her extensive research on how Colombians turn to community media – including radio, television, video, digital photography, and the Internet – as tools to forge lives for themselves and their families that are not entirely colonized by armed conflict and its effects.

SPEAKER: CLEMENCIA RODRÍGUEZ

Since 1984 Professor Rodríguez has conducted research on citizens' media in Nicaragua, Colombia, Spain, Chile, and among Latino communities in the United States. Her books on citizens' media include *Fissures in the Mediascape: An International Study of Citizens' Media* (Hampton Press, 2001); *Citizens' Media Against Armed Conflict: Disrupting Violence in Colombia* (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2011); and *Creating New Communication Spaces. Volume I and II of "Making Our Media: Global Initiatives Toward a Democratic Public Sphere"* (Edited with Dorothy Kidd and Laura Stein, Euricom Monographs, 2009 and 2010). She is Professor of Communication at the University of Oklahoma.