Grounds for Dreaming
Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the California Farmworker Movement

Grounds for Dreaming is a deeply-researched history of how Mexican communities in the part of agricultural California deemed “America’s Salad Bowl” fought for equality and respect in a hostile climate of labor repression and xenophobia. Long before the seminal strikes led by Cesar Chavez, farmworkers in the Salinas Valley wrote to newspapers, wore zoot suits, formed civil rights organizations, exercised their vote, and filed landmark lawsuits against agribusiness. Along with examining these political acts, Lori Flores looks closely at how three different groups of Mexicans—U.S. born, bracero guestworker, and undocumented immigrant—confronted and interacted with one another during the pivotal period of the mid-twentieth century. Called by reviewers an “accessible”, “beautifully crafted”, and “indispensable” book for scholars and general readers alike, Grounds for Dreaming has been named Best First Book by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, Best History Book by the International Latino Book Awards, and the winner of the History Society of Southern California’s Martin Ridge Award.

About the Author
Lori A. Flores is Associate Professor of History at Stony Brook University, where she teaches courses on the histories of Latinx people in the United States, American labor and immigration, the U.S. West, and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. She is the author of Grounds for Dreaming: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the California Farmworker Movement (Yale Press), which was named Best History Book by the International Latino Book Awards and Best First Book by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. She is also the new co-editor of the completely-revised 4th edition of The Academic’s Handbook, which offers valuable advice essays from a diverse array of scholars and will be published by Duke University Press in Fall 2020.

Thursday
February 20, 2020
6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Doors open and light refreshments at 6:00 P.M.
Norman Levan Center
For The Humanities

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities & “Energizing Humanities in California’s San Joaquin Valley”