

NEWS RELEASE

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Distinguished Oral Historian to Visit the Hall Center

Lawrence, KS – Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, director of the U.S. Latino & Latina World War II Oral History Project, will present “Oral History to Understand Our Present” on Friday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hall Center Conference Hall. The lecture, sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities and the Kansas Humanities Council, is free, open to the public, and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

Oral history projects abound today, ranging from grade school students interviewing their grandparents, to adults interviewing World War II veterans. Dr. Rivas-Rodriguez will discuss the more profound questions and issues that face all oral historians. What are the common problems and challenges in all oral history work? What questions should an oral historian ask?

Rivas-Rodriguez spearheaded the U.S. Latino & Latina World War II Oral History Project, which includes interviews with over 700 men and women throughout the country. At the heart of the project is a rich archive of primary source material in the form of videotaped interviews, photographs and other documentation. It also has several components designed to reach audiences ranging from school children, to academics, to the general public.

Rivas-Rodriguez is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. She has more than 17 years of daily news experience, mostly as a reporter for the *Boston Globe*, WFAA-TV in Dallas and the *Dallas Morning News*. She received her Ph.D. as a Freedom Forum doctoral fellow from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her master’s degree is from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism and her bachelor of journalism degree is from the University of Texas at Austin.

Over the last decade, the Hall Center for the Humanities has supported oral history research and outreach, most notably through an annual Oral History Workshop. The Kansas Humanities Council has supported community-based oral history projects through its Kansans Tell Their Stories initiative and grants program.

For more information about the Rivas-Rodriguez lecture, please contact the Hall Center at hallcenter@ku.edu or call (785) 864-4798.

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