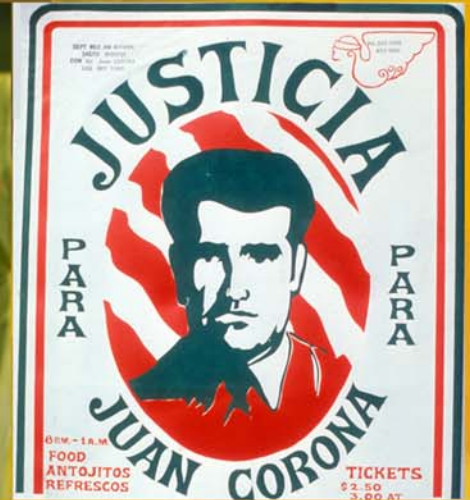


# Department of Modern Languages

School of International and Public Affairs



## From Social Banditry to Serial Murder: Adventures in Becoming Mexican American

Lecture by Dr. Robert McKee Irwin

Thursday, February 5, 2015 | 05:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | GL 220

In 1971, Mexican immigrant Juan Corona was accused of 25 murders of mostly white itinerant farm laborers. Concerned over issues of police brutality and a racist criminal justice system, Chicano activists and Mexican Americans, including the aspiring novelist Víctor Villaseñor, wondered if Juan Corona was treated unjustly by police and prosecutors for being Mexican. This 1970s public spectacle brought back the cross cultural tensions of the mid-1800s as well as new twists involving alcoholism, mental illness, homosexuality and the prison industrial complex. By marking a key moment in civil rights history, it also offered interesting insights into the relationships between Mexicans.

Dr. Robert McKee Irwin is Chair of the Graduate Group in Cultural Studies and Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Davis. He is the author of *Mexican Masculinities and Bandits, Captives, Heroines and Saints: Cultural Icons of Mexico's Northwest Borderlands*. He also co-wrote and edited other books. He is PI for the community based digital storytelling project "Sexualidades Campesinas" and is co-PI for UC Davis's soon to be launched Mellon Initiative in Comparative Border Studies.

Co-sponsored by **University Graduate School** and the **College of Arts and Science**.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-348-2851.