



# Western

Centre for Research on  
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Fall Colloquium  
Series 2016**

## **\*Francisco Rico-Martinez\***



Francisco Rico-Martinez is the Co-director of FCJ Refugee Centre in Toronto. Born in El Salvador, Francisco came to Canada in 1990 with Loly, his wife, and their two children. Soon after their arrival, their third child was born. Formally trained as a lawyer and economist, Francisco has been committed to issues of social justice for as long as he can remember. Starting with work in human rights in El Salvador, then solidarity work in Europe, and now work in the field of Refugee Rights in Canada. He is past president of the Canadian Council for Refugees, and has been recognized for his work with the William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award of the City of Toronto and the YMCA Peace Medallion.

### **Equity for Precarious Migrants in Canada**

Precarious migrants in Canada are vulnerable to many forms of abuse as the law often fails to protect them – both in principle and in practice. The existence of these impermanent or illegitimate immigration statuses that fall outside permanent residency is the result of the unfair, inequitable and restrictive nature of our refugee and immigration system. Therefore, any plan towards regularization for these populations requires addressing systemic problems on some level. People find themselves with precarious immigration status or without status in Canada for a variety of reasons but most relate to their circumstances of being oppressed on the basis of their race, gender, disability, social status, economic status, age, and/or variation from gender or sexual norms.

In the long run, we believe the real solution is to eliminate the conditions which create the precariousness of people without status or with only temporary status through immigration reform. Our immediate goal, however, is limited to implementing a mechanism for regularization to remove the unfinished inventory of cases under the current system, while preventing the accumulation of a new backlog that will no doubt continue to build up under the new refugee determination system.

**Thursday, October 20, 2016**

**4:00 pm, SSC 5220**

***Refreshments at 3:30pm in SSC 5230***

***All Welcome!***

***For More Information email: [mer@uwo.ca](mailto:mer@uwo.ca)***