

CLEMENTS CENTER FOR  
**SOUTHWEST STUDIES**  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

You are invited to the Brown Bag Lecture Series

March 21, 2012  
12 noon to 1 p.m.

Texana Room, DeGolyer Library, 6404 Hyer (formerly Hilltop) Lane & McFarlin Blvd.

**Legal Codes and Talking Trees:  
Indigenous Women in Imperial Courts, 1853-1912**

**Katrina Jagodinsky**

Clements Center Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America



As imperial legal regimes criss-crossed North American borderlands in the second half of the nineteenth century, indigenous women found creative ways to critique the laws that made them economically and sexually vulnerable to the whims of citizen men and their families. Jagodinsky will focus her discussion on the strategies of Native women in the territories of Arizona and Washington who resisted the intimate and material exploitation they faced under settler-colonialism in borderlands regions.

Jagodinsky will explore the legal cases and the social contexts from which they emerged to reveal much about the ways in which indigenous women navigated the sexual and racial hierarchies erected under state formation in the U.S.-Canadian and U.S.-Mexican borderlands of Washington and Arizona. A history that spans from American absorption of Oregon Territory in 1845 and the U.S.-Mexican War in 1846 to the American Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the Indian Claims Commission hearings of the 1930s, "Legal Codes and Talking Trees" posits Native women as central actors in the imperial courts that administered conquest and settlement in the American West.

Jagodinsky received her PhD in US history and comparative studies at the University of Arizona. She is spending the academic year as a Clements fellow furthering her manuscript, "Legal Codes and Talking Trees: Indigenous Women in Imperial Courts, 1853-1912," for publication.

*Image: Clara Woolsey from the personal collection of Robert Marron Romero, c. 1931. Used with permission.*

For more information or if you need special accommodations, contact [swcenter@smu.edu](mailto:swcenter@smu.edu) or 214-768-3684.



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