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A War of Thoughts: Propaganda, Intelligence and Global Fascism on the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1933-1945

*David Romo,
Summerlee Fellow
for the Study of
Texas History*

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
12 noon to 1 pm
McCord Auditorium,
Dallas Hall,
3225 University Blvd.,
on the campus of SMU

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In this talk, Clements fellow David Romo will explore the impact of German, Japanese, British, American and Mexican propaganda and intelligence activities along the U.S.-Mexico border before and during World War II. During this period, cross-border drug smuggling became conflated with Axis plots to subjugate America; Mexican braceros were no longer portrayed as unwanted aliens but rather hailed by U.S. government officials and propagandists as heroic “soldiers of production” in the battle against global fascism; and the Zoot Suit lifestyle of Mexican American barrio youth became a symbol of disloyalty. Axis propagandists paid close attention to such developments and frequently exploited the region’s issues in their short-wave radio broadcasts to Latin America as a means of undermining Pan-Americanism.