Ricardo Ramirez *
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Notre Dame

Will present a talk entitled

Mobilizing Opportunities: The Evolving Latino Electorate and the Future of American Politics

*Mobilizing Opportunities* examines a widely-acknowledged shift in perception of Latinos from uncertain political relevance in 1990 to a sense that they are redefining American democracy in 2012.

Drawing upon original surveys, official government statistics, and community data from Latino civic organizations, Ramírez goes beyond the traditional predictors of political participation to examine the mobilizing effects of identity-based political threats and ethnic appeals to solidarity in response to such community assaults. Ramírez offers a theory of the interplay of state political contexts and ethnic identities to explain how these communities are mobilized into political action.

*Mobilizing Opportunities* makes the case that the relevance of Latino demographic change will be determined not by their presence nationally or vis-à-vis national party politics, but by the extent to which the influx of Latinos into state politics is gradual and expected or sudden and unexpected.

Monday, March 10, 2014
2:30pm—4pm
SOS B40

*Ricardo Ramirez is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame and a faculty fellow in the Institute for Latino Studies. He received an M.A. in Education Administration and Policy Analysis in 2001 and his Ph.D. in Political Science in 2002, both from Stanford University.

His broad research interests include political behavior, state and local politics, the politics of race and ethnicity, and immigrant politics. His research is geared to understanding the transformation of civic and political participation in American democracy by focusing on the effects of political context on participation, the political mobilization of and outreach to Latino immigrants and other minority groups, and the causes and consequences of increasing diversity among elected officials.