Dr. Quintana will explore how the Mexican Bracero Program and Caribbean guestworker programs of World War II were U.S. imperial projects that were, in part, the consequence of Japanese American incarceration and the New Deal. She will also demonstrate how various officials and agencies in Puerto Rico, the British West Indies, and the United States sought to benevolently manage labor migrants as colonial projects of "uplift" in the 1940s and 1950s, and how this still impacts migrant workers today.

Maria Quintana is an Assistant Professor of History at Sacramento State University, where she teaches courses on race and empire, civil rights and labor history, immigration history, and Latinx history. She is the author of Contracting Freedom: Race, Empire, and U.S. Guestworker Programs (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2022) and received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 2016.

Lunch provided to participants