Talking About Torture: U.S. Politics and the Debate about ‘Enhanced Interrogation’

Presented by Jared Del Rosso, assistant professor of sociology

**Thursday, October 6, 2016**
4:00 p.m. reception; 4:30 p.m. lecture
Special Events Room, 290
Anderson Academic Commons

Nearly all U.S. politicians agree that the country should not torture. And yet, “enhanced interrogation” techniques such as waterboarding remain hotly contested in U.S. politics. At this lecture, we'll explore how historical views of torture shape the contemporary debate about enhanced interrogation. We'll also scrutinize the arguments for and against enhanced techniques in order to understand ongoing controversies about these practices.

Del Rosso's research examines the recent debates in the U.S. about detainee abuse, torture, and interrogation policy. He is especially interested in understanding how political communities assign meaning to their own acts of violence and the suffering that it causes. His book on these issues, *Talking About Torture: How Political Discourse Shapes the Debate*, was published in 2015 by Columbia University Press. Del Rosso has also published several articles, reviews, and op-eds on torture in *Social Forces, Social Problems, Sociological Forum, Contemporary Sociology*, and the *Huffington Post*, among others.

The faculty lecture series showcases the work being pioneered by faculty in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Faculty members share their current research or present recently published works on the first Thursday of the month.

**NEXT:** Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.,
Professor Carl Raschke presents *From God to Mammon: The 'Deep Theology' of Contemporary Neo-Liberalism.*