Focus on the intersection of neoliberalism and violence in order to understand the structures of power that sustain impunity in cases of disappearance in Mexico. The intertwined development of neoliberalism with militarization and cartel violence in Mexico has created a climate of fear and a political economy in which the lines between state and cartels and between laundered and non-laundered investment blur. The distribution of the violence has a strong class character as does the possibilities for avoidance of violence, access to justice or ever discovering what happened to victims of disappearance. The vast majority of the disappeared are working people and middle classes. This presentation will focus on the class distribution/character of violence and access to justice for disappeared people and their families while also commenting on the social control aspects of violence, both cartel and state by drawing on fieldwork in northeastern Mexico.

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