The presentation will explore the ways in which Puerto Ricans on Chicago’s Near Northwest Side have experienced and understand aging within the historical and political-economic context of urban renewal and gentrification.

Mérida Rúa is Associate Professor of Latina and Latino Studies and American Studies at Williams College in Massachusetts. She is author of A Grounded Identidad: Making New Lives in Chicago’s Puerto Rican Neighborhoods (Oxford University Press, 2012) and editor of Latino Urban Ethnography and the Work of Elena Padilla (University of Illinois Press, 2011). Her research and teaching interests include urban history and ethnography, contemporary understandings of citizenship, race and space, and community and identity formations among diasporic Puerto Ricans, US Latinos, and other ethnoracial populations. Expanding on her previous work on the history and politics of Puerto Rican identity and community, Rúa is currently conducting research on aging and urban life, with particular attention to older adult Latinas and Latinos in Chicago. This project follows her ongoing interest in studying identity and the ways in which race intersects with class, gender, age, and other ideologies of difference in urban contexts.