Public Lecture by Katherine Rodela

Recipient AAUW dissertation fellowship, PhD candidate Stanford University

“Neither the problem nor the solution: Latina Immigrant Mothers Traversing U.S. School Cultural Landscapes”

Wednesday, April 23 2-4 pm

Portland State University Smith Student Center 238

1825 SW Broadway (between SW Montgomery and SW Harrison)

Co-sponsors: AAUW Portland Branch, PSU Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Department and PSU Child & Family Studies Department.

Katherine Rodela is an AAUW Dissertation Fellow and a doctoral candidate in the Anthropology of Education program at Stanford University’s School of Education. She received a BA in Philosophy and History at Seattle University and is a former Fulbright Scholar in Peru where she studied the social impacts of a nutritional program on indigenous women. Before starting her graduate studies, Katherine taught Spanish in an inner-city high school in Oregon.  Her research interests include issues of culture, language, and equity in schools, particularly understanding the relationships between Latino immigrant communities and schools.  Her PhD research involved an ethnographic study with Spanish-speaking Latino immigrant families in a preschool parent education program in Oregon. Katherine is currently working to translate her ethnographic research into initiatives to help diverse educational leaders promote equity and culturally responsive policies in and around schools.

Katherine will present findings from her Ph.D. research with immigrant Latina mothers in a parent education program in Oregon.  She discusses the complex cultural landscapes and interactions Latina immigrant mothers must negotiate as they prepare their children to enter and succeed in U.S. schools.