Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies

FILM & PIZZA NIGHT MARCH 1, 2017 @ 5PM



An evening of film, food, & conversation for GSS Majors, Minors, QS Minors & Friends

LOCATION: HG 3341

RSVP: robledj1@uci.edu

Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four (2016) excavates the nightmarish persecution of Elizabeth Ramirez, Cassandra Rivera, Kristie Mayhugh, and Anna Vasquez — four Latina lesbians wrongfully convicted of gang-raping two little girls in San Antonio, Texas. The film begins its journey inside a Texas prison, after these women have spent nearly a decade behind bars. They were 19 and 20 years at the time that allegations surfaced. Using the women's home video footage from 21 years ago combined with recent verité footage and interviews, the film explores their personal narratives and their search for exculpatory evidence to help their losing criminal trials. 15 years into their journey, director Deborah S. Esquenazi captures an on-camera recantation by one of the initial outcry victims, now 25 years old although 7 at the time of the investigation. This brings the filmmaker into the role of investigator along with attorneys at the Innocence Project, who are just beginning their quest for truth in this case.