Despite statistics that illustrate how Mexican migration to the United States continues to decrease, politicians and voters continue to demand increased border enforcement, deportation of all undocumented migrants, and a wall to prevent Mexican migrants from entering the country without authorization. The disconnect between reality and rhetoric illustrates how Mexican migrants have become inextricably associated with illegality, crime and deportability although they have become central to how the U.S. economy operates. In an era of unprecedented deportations, Mexico has struggled to address the constant influx of deportees and return migrants. Based on research conducted in Mexico and the United States, Gutiérrez will discuss how the process of removal affects migrants after returning to their home country and how deportation policies have significant consequences for Mexican border cities.

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