

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY PRESENTS

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Social Sciences Building, Dean's Conference Room 107

Ties that Bind: Churches, Youth Gangs, and the Management of Everyday Life in Urban Latin America

Pentecostal churches and transnational youth gangs have more in common than simply their increasing popularity in urban neighborhoods across Latin America and the Caribbean. Indeed, in a remarkably short period of time these emergent institutions have become regular fixtures in the social and cultural life of urban communities throughout the region. This talk considers these institutions as similar and related with two goals in mind: first, to reflect on the simultaneous popularity of two seemingly irreconcilably different institutions; and second, to probe what this shared popularity might say about contemporary social life in urban barrios today.