Description: Héctor Carrillo’s new research focuses on the appeal of amateur genealogy as a global phenomenon. He examines the social and economic processes that put documents and records—the material basis and essential building blocks of genealogy—at the fingertips of amateur genealogists worldwide, as well as genealogists’ practices of documentary analysis and interpretation. This project has the potential to draw from various sociological subfields, including the sociology of knowledge, immigration, family, sexualities, identities, race, organizations, and culture, as well as political sociology and comparative historical sociology. In this exploratory presentation, Carrillo seeks to tap on the collective expertise in our department and solicit comments and suggestions for the implementation of this research.

Héctor Carrillo is professor of sociology and gender & sexuality studies at Northwestern University, where he also co-directs the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN).