

# ***The Land of Open Graves: Photographs from the Undocumented Migration Project***

## **Conversation with Jason De León and Michael Wells**

### **Book Release Party**

**Speaker:** Jason De León and Michael Wells

**Host Department:** Institute for the Humanities

**Date:** 11/12/2015

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Location:** Institute for the Humanities, 202 S. Thayer

#### **Description:**

##### About the book:

In his gripping and provocative debut, anthropologist Jason De León sheds light on one of the most pressing political issues of our time—the human consequences of US immigration policy. *The Land of Open Graves* reveals the suffering and deaths that occur daily in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona as thousands of undocumented migrants attempt to cross the border from Mexico into the United States.

Drawing on the four major fields of anthropology, De León uses an innovative combination of ethnography, archaeology, linguistics, and forensic science to produce a scathing critique of “Prevention through Deterrence,” the federal border enforcement policy that encourages migrants to cross in areas characterized by extreme environmental conditions and high risk of death. For two decades, this policy has failed to deter border crossers while successfully turning the rugged terrain of southern Arizona into a killing field.

In harrowing detail, De León chronicles the journeys of people who have made dozens of attempts to cross the border and uncovers the stories of the objects and bodies left behind in the desert. *The Land of Open Graves* will spark debate and controversy. — University of California Press

##### About Jason De León:

Jason De León is assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan and director of the Undocumented Migration Project, a long-term anthropological study of clandestine border crossings between Mexico and the United States. His academic work has been featured in numerous media outlets, including National Public Radio, the New York Times Magazine, Al Jazeera magazine, The Huffington Post, and Vice magazine. In 2013, De León was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer.