This lecture presents part of an ongoing research project looking at the mystery of why, for countries in the same region and with historical and structural similarities, the three nations of the "northern triangle" (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala) have extremely high rates of homicide, by both regional and world standards, while the other two countries (Costa Rica and Nicaragua) have low homicide rates, lower even than the world average. The mystery is complicated by the fact that Nicaragua, a country that according to the relevant indices of democratic and socio-economic development remains at the bottom of the regional ranking (in contrast to Costa Rica as the "Switzerland" of Central America), is one of the two cases with low rates of homicide. To resolve this puzzle a multi-causal model is proposed combining criminology (etiologically) and political science (using different derivations of regime hybridity and a political economy of rent).

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May 23, 2012
Wednesday, 12pm
Orfalea Center Seminar Room
1005 Robertson Gym

The Orfalea Center is located in the detached ground-level wing of offices on the left just outside the main Ocean Road entrance to Robertson Gymnasium.