This presentation draws from a federally-funded study on the transnational capacity of the MS-13 gang across the United States and El Salvador, and analyzes the mechanisms by which references to MS-13 have been politicized to associate Latino migration with criminality and dangerousness. Leon specifically examines how gang intelligence practices and data collection methods among law enforcement and corrections officials contribute to political discourse that increasingly conflates criminality with migration, and how criminal justice measurement instruments play a formidable role in the politics of crime control.