SEMINAR

Friday, May 8, 2009
11:00 am–Noon, AIRB room 4080
Refreshments will be served from 10:30 to 11:00 am

GETTING THE GOODS
Ports, Labor, and the Logistics Revolution

By Edna Bonacich

Abstract
In Getting the Goods, Edna Bonacich and Jake Wilson focus on the San Pedro Bay Ports (Los Angeles and Long Beach), which together account for 40 percent of the goods imported annually to the United States, to examine the impact of the logistics revolution on transportation and distribution workers. Drawing extensively on interviews, industry reports, and economic data, Bonacich and Wilson explore the roles of importers, container shipping companies, the ports, railroad and trucking companies, and warehouses in the new supply chains. In general, they find that the logistics revolution has led to a degradation of the condition of transportation and distribution workers, but they also suggest that changes in the production and distribution systems have created new strategic opportunities for labor. Getting the Goods should be of interest to scholars and students in transportation studies, logistics, sociology, political economy, and labor studies.

Edna M. Bonacich is professor emeritus of sociology and ethnic studies at the University of California, Riverside. She is co-author of Getting the Goods: Ports, Labor, and the Logistics Revolution and Behind the Label: Inequality in the Los Angeles Apparel Industry. She is currently teaching sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles.