

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
A.R. SANCHEZ, JR. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WESTERN HEMISPHERIC TRADE



## IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2018-2019 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

### “The Human Cost of Deterrence Based Border Enforcement”

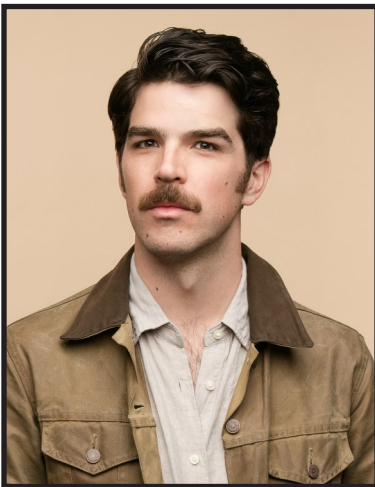


Photo Credit: Beowulf Sheehan

PRESENTED BY:

### Francisco Cantú

Former U.S. Border Patrol Agent and  
Author of *The Line Becomes a River*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (SC 203)

**Reception 5:30 p.m. | Lecture 6 p.m.**

Open to the public. Free of charge.

For additional information,  
call 956.326.2820, e-mail [cswht@tamiu.edu](mailto:cswht@tamiu.edu),  
or visit <http://freetrade.tamiu.edu>

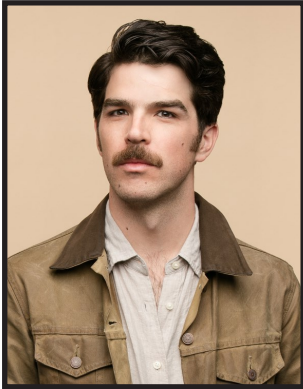
Texas A&M International University  
5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041

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### Francisco Cantú

Former U.S. Border Patrol Agent and  
Author of *The Line Becomes a River*

Raised in the Southwest and a student of US/México relations, Francisco Cantú wanted to see the realities of the border up-close. He enlisted as a US border patrol agent in 2008 and spent the next four years working in the deserts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. During blistering days and frigid nights, he and his partners apprehended migrants who were risking their lives to cross to a new country.

Haunted by his interactions with border-crossers and rattled by an inescapable proximity to violence, Cantú decided to return to civilian life, only to discover that the border had followed him home. When an immigrant friend traveled back to México to visit his dying mother and didn't return, Cantú found himself moved to uncover the entire story. His searing memoir, *The Line Becomes a River* (February 2018) depicts the cruelties the border creates, for Americans and Mexicans on both sides of the line.

Cantú speaks frankly, compassionately, and knowledgeably about the terror and tragedy of the migrants who risk and lose their lives attempting to cross the border. A master storyteller, he gives human faces to the nameless multitudes, and refutes the incendiary policy and rhetoric aimed at them.

Cantú is a former Fulbright Fellow and recipient of a Pushcart Prize and 2017 Whiting Award. His writing and translations have appeared in *Best American Essays*, *Harpers*, *n+1*, *Orion*, and *Guernica*. His work has also been featured on *This American Life*. He currently lives in Tucson, Arizona.

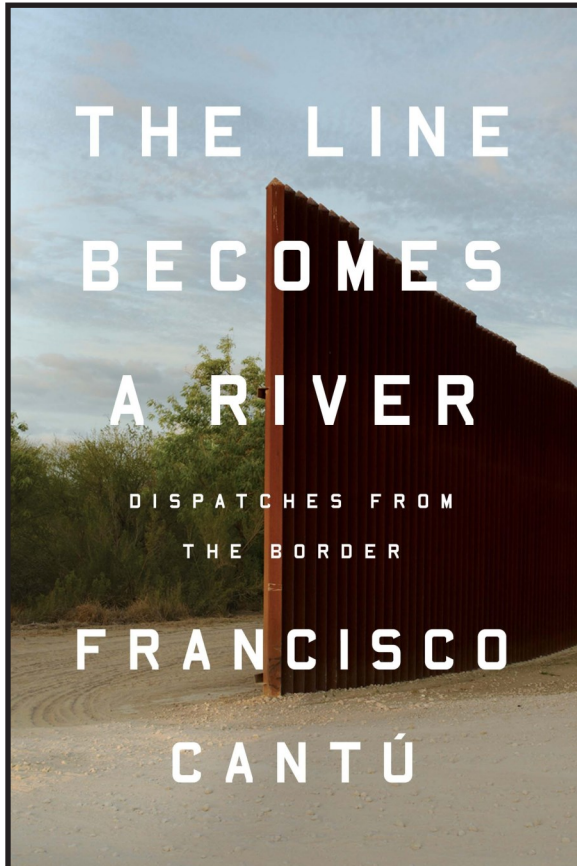
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### “The Human Cost of Deterrence Based Border Enforcement”

In the absence of meaningful immigration reform, the last several decades have been defined by deterrence-based border enforcement that has fundamentally changed the nature of the migrant journey to the United States, precipitating a crisis of death and disappearance in borderlands. Rooted in his experience as a former Border Patrol agent who became disillusioned by the normalization of violence and dehumanization within the agency, Cantú examines recent history, policy enactments, and political rhetoric in order to suggest new ways of thinking and talking about immigration and borders that recognize the interconnectedness of place and the value of human life.

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[www.prhspeakers.com](http://www.prhspeakers.com).

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