Abstract of Talk
Latinos and Latinas are redefining how U.S. society and its social institutions have to take them into account. Recent Presidential elections underscore what many had been predicting was coming—that Latin@s/Hispanics in the U.S. were poised to make their numbers matter. However, questions remain about the salience and meaning of these numbers for greater and sustained social and political participation. One place to look for answers to these questions is to focus on the leadership that Latin@/Hispanic churches provide as a basis for understanding how these institutions are necessary to the social capital of a community. Churches and faith-based organizations are among the most visible and dynamic institutions in Latin@/Hispanic communities, nurturing cultural and civic values and behavior, and inspiring and organizing community involvement, often in distressed urban neighborhoods. This presentation will address two questions. How are Latino/a churches and congregations advocates for their communities’ needs? How well positioned are Latino and Latina religious leaders to provide leadership and why is the ability to do so important? What lessons can we draw about the overall role churches and congregations play in leading civic engagement and in fostering identity formations as tools for community empowerment?

Date: September 30
Time: 4:00
Place: INTS 1113
Light refreshments will be provided.