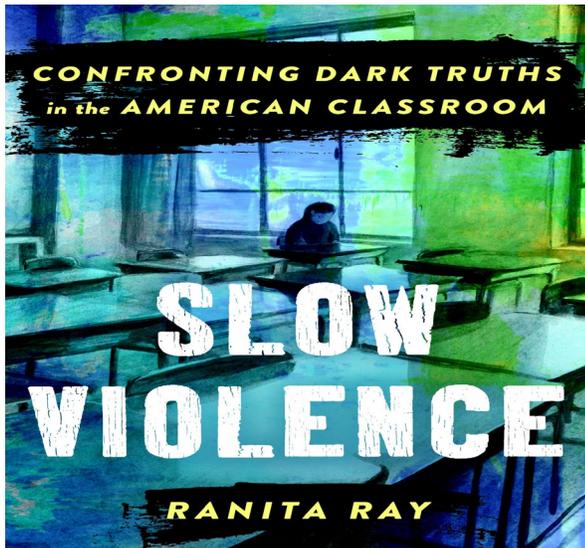# Human Development Presents

Slow Violence: Confronting Dark Truths in the American Classroom

Ranita Ray, Ph.D. is Associate Professor and Baca Zinn Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico. She is an ethnographer specializing in children/youth, urban inequalities, education, gender and racial injustice. Ray's major publications include *Slow Violence: Confronting Dark Truths in the American Classroom* (St. Martin's Press, 2025) and *The Making of a Teenage Service Class: Poverty and Mobility in an American City* (U. of California Press, 2017). She has published in various journals including *Social Problems, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography,* and *The American Journal of Bioethics,* and has several book chapters on urban issues, youth, education, and human rights.

When: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
12:30 - 1:30pm

Where: Library 507 (University Honor's Program)

Slow Violence lays bare the routine indifference, racism, and verbal and emotional abuse and harassment that teachers and administrators perpetrate routinely against the most vulnerable children in our schools. Bolstered by an empathetic and passionate voice as well as the latest breaking research in the social sciences, Ray goes beyond timeworn discussions about the school-to-prison pipeline, funding, and achievement gaps to directly address what happens behind the closed doors of classrooms, introducing a compelling—and crucial—new perspective into the conversation about our education system. It allows us to see that the way we've tried to make a start in education reform is wrong. To forge new approaches that foster young minds and flourishing generations we must start with how children experience the classroom. Unflinchingly, *Slow Violence* tells us—and shows us—where to begin.