January 28th, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Loeb Building A 720

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What does it mean to practice citizenship and engage in democracy? These questions are difficult to answer for anyone, but they become even more complex when asked of those who have been pushed outside of conventional opportunity structures. How can you effectively engage in the public sphere when you are a young person struggling to survive, often through criminalized activities like selling drugs, panhandling and sex work? How do you raise your issues in a milieu where your voice is considered illegitimate or unformed? How do you participate in a political process that has consistently marginalized you and your family? Through exploring these questions, and more, with homeless and street-involved youth in Ottawa over a period of eight months, we developed three short films responding to three of the issues they identified as most important: police-youth relations, decriminalizing marijuana, and transitioning out of homelessness. In this presentation, we will show the films, trace the process of developing them, and reflect on larger issues related to civic engagement of young people who are symbolically and literally located outside of conventional political and civic processes.

This lecture is part of the Carleton Sociology and Anthropology Colloquium Series
For more information, please contact Marlene Brancato, nahla.abdo@carleton.ca