

Dr. Melissa Villa-Nicholas,
Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, University of
Rhode Island

"Latinas On Line: Intersectional Identities at AT&T"

Abstract: In 1973, the American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) Company signed the affirmative action consent decree with the Equal Employment Opportunities Committee (EEOC), opening up the largest private sector corporation to previously excluded groups. Latinas entered the blue and white collar field of telecommunications with this suit, working as telephone operators, data entry, field engineers, and more evolving information labor positions.

This lecture provides a critical oral history of Latina information workers in the Bell System . Based on oral history interviews and supporting archival research, I provide an overview of how Latinas engage and remember a critical analysis of their work place, information technologies, and the larger globalized economy and shifting borderlands through their intersectional identities as information workers.