As part of the College of Arts and Letters Global Film Series, MSU professor of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures Alexandra Hidalgo presented a screening of her film *Vanishing Borders* last November during fall term. Hidalgo, who produced, directed and edited the 2014 documentary feature, also discussed the film and answered audience questions following the screening, along with the film's composer, Ricardo Lorenz, and MSU professor Tama Hamilton-Wray.

**Film synopsis**

*Vanishing Borders* tells the story of four immigrant women living in New York City who, through their work, relationships, and activism, are transforming not only their lives but also the lives of those around them. The film places a human, female face on the often abstract issue of immigration, inviting audiences to experience the profound happiness, pain, and sense of discovery that comes from leaving one's home behind and settling in a new country.

While immigration is often presented as an abstract threat, *Vanishing Borders* finds the face and heart behind the thousands of people who come into the United States every year, determined to make the life they've always dreamed about a reality. At times humorous, poignant, and heartbreaking, the stories of Yatna, Daphnie, Melainie, and Teboho provide viewers with a diverse and profound look at the beauty and pain of leaving one's home behind to start over elsewhere.

As the women express the benefits of merging different cultures, they also explore how being a woman transforms the immigrant experience. The roles of daughter, sister, mother, wife, girlfriend, student, teacher, and activist take on a new, radiant light brimming with the many colors and flavors that result from the women blending their home cultures with American ways of living.