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Front Cover: Salamander Hill Designs
Everyday voices from beyond the headlines

These days everyone has something to say (or declaim!) about the U.S.–Mexico border. Whether it’s immigration, resource management, education policy, or drugs, the borderlands are either the epicenter or the emblem of a current crisis facing the nation. At a time when the region has been co-opted for every possible rhetorical use, what endures is a resilient and vibrant local culture that resists easy characterization. For an honest picture of life on the border, what remains is to listen to voices that are too often drowned out: the people who actually live and work there, who make their homes and livings amid a confluence of cultures and loyalties. For many of these people, the border is less a hyphenated place than a meeting place, a merging. This aspect of the border is epitomized in the names of two cities that straddle the line: Calexico and Mexicali.

A “sleepy crossroads that exists at a global flashpoint,” Calexico serves as the reference point for veteran journalist Peter Laufer’s chronicle of day-to-day life on the border. This wide-ranging, interview-driven book finds Laufer and his traveling companion/photographer on a weeklong road trip through the Imperial Valley and other border locales, engaging in earnest and revealing conversations with the people they meet along the way. Laufer talks to secretaries and politicians, restaurateurs and salsa dancers, poets and real estate agents about the issues that matter to them the most.

What draws them to border towns? How do they feel about border security and the fences that may someday run through their backyards? Is “English-only” a realistic policy? Why have some towns flourished and others declined? What does it mean to be Mexican or American in such a place? Waitress Bonnie Peterson banterers with customers in Spanish and English. Mayor Lewis Pacheco laments the role that globalization has played in his city’s labor market. Some of their anecdotes are humorous, others grim. Moreover, not everyone agrees. But this very diversity is part of the fabric of the borderlands, and these stories demand to be heard.

PETER LAUFER, PhD, is the winner of major awards for excellence in reporting—including the George Polk and Edward R. Murrow awards—and an independent journalist, broadcaster, and documentary filmmaker working in traditional and new media. He has crossed and reported from various borders around the world, including the DMZ between North and South Korea, and the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. He is the author of several other books, including Wetback Nation: The Case for Opening the Mexican–American Border. He holds the James Wallace Chair in Journalism at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication.
From This Wicked Patch of Dust
A Novel by SERGIO TRONCOSO

One family’s struggle to become American

In the border shantytown of Ysleta, Mexican immigrants Pilar and Cuauhtémoc Martínez strive to teach their four children to forsake the drugs and gangs of their neighborhood. The family’s hardscrabble origins are just the beginning of this sweeping new novel from Sergio Troncoso.

Spanning four decades, this is a story of a family’s struggle to become American and yet not be pulled apart by an onslaught of cultural forces. Daughter Julieta is disenchanted with Catholicism and converts to Islam. Youngest son Ismael, always the bookworm, is accepted to Harvard but feels out of place in the Northeast, where he meets and marries a Jewish woman. The other boys—Marcos and Francisco—toil in their father’s old apartment buildings, serving as cheap labor to fuel the family’s rise to the middle class. Over time, Francisco isolates himself in El Paso, while Marcos eventually leaves to become a teacher but then returns, struggling with a deep bitterness about his work and marriage. Through it all, Pilar clings to the idea of her family and tries to hold it together as her husband’s health begins to fail.

This backdrop is shaken to its core by the historic events of 2001 in New York City, which send shockwaves through this newly American family. Bitter conflicts erupt between siblings, and the physical and cultural spaces between them threaten to tear them apart. Will their shared history and once-shared dreams be enough to hold together a family from Ysleta, this wicked patch of dust?

SERGIO TRONCOSO is a graduate of both Harvard College and Yale University and the author of The Last Tortilla and Other Stories and The Nature of Truth: A Novel, the former also published by the University of Arizona Press.

“One reads From This Wicked patch of Dust and can only pause for a moment to say, ‘Yes.’ Sergio Troncoso writes with inevitable grace and mounting power. Family, in all its baffling wonder, comes alive on these pages.” —Luis Urrea, author of The Hummingbird’s Daughter

“An irresistible read, this compelling novel explores a family’s conflicted desires: to honor the past that connected them closely to one another and to embrace the future that launches them toward separate destinies—to belong and to be free. Sergio Troncoso delivers a moving and unforgettable story.” —Lorraine López, author of Homicide Survivors Picnic and Other Stories

“The novel whirls in and out of expanding cultural identities—Mexican and American; poor, ambitious, and smart; Catholic, Muslim, and even Jewish—and yet stays centered on a family in the borderlands; it details a past that is more the cultural future. El Paso deserves big books, and Sergio Troncoso gives us one here—in a voice that is both his and ours.” —Dagoberto Gilb, author of Woodcuts of Women
With this collection of complex and articulate essays, Lorraine López and Blas Falconer dare to unpack what mainstream American media and culture have been forcing into a single neat package for decades: Latino. A timely manifesto!” —Rigoberto González, editor of Camino del Sol: Fifteen Years of Latina and Latino Writing

“It isn’t an exaggeration to say that I’ve been waiting for this book for my entire life (and even longer). That’s because I live—I let myself live—in the ‘o’ of other. Thanks to Falconer and López, now that ‘o’ might also stand for openness.” —Ilan Stavans, editor of the Norton Anthology of Latino Literature
Sovereign Erotics
A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature

Edited by QWO-LI DRISKILL, DANIEL HEATH JUSTICE, DEBORAH MIRANDA, and LISA TATONETTI

Native writers explore complex identities

Two-Spirit people, identified by many different tribally specific names and standings within their communities, have been living, loving, and creating art since time immemorial. It wasn’t until the 1970s, however, that contemporary queer Native literature gained any public notice. Even now, only a handful of books address it specifically, most notably the 1988 collection Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology. Since that book’s publication twenty-three years ago, there has not been another collection published that focuses explicitly on the writing and art of Indigenous Two-Spirit and Queer people.

This landmark collection strives to reflect the complexity of identities within Native Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Two-Spirit (GLBTQ2) communities. Gathering together the work of established writers and talented new voices, this anthology spans genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and essay) and themes (memory, history, sexuality, indigeneity, friendship, family, love, and loss) and represents a watershed moment in Native American and Indigenous literatures, Queer studies, and the intersections between the two.

Collaboratively, the pieces in Sovereign Erotics demonstrate not only the radical diversity among the voices of today’s Indigenous GLBTQ2 writers but also the beauty, strength, and resilience of Indigenous GLBTQ2 people in the twenty-first century.

QWO-LI DRISKILL is a Cherokee Two-Spirit/Queer activist, writer, and performer and the author of Walking with Ghosts: Poems and co-editor of Queer Indigenous Studies: Critical Interventions in Theory, Politics, and Literature, also published by the University of Arizona Press. DANIEL HEATH JUSTICE (Cherokee Nation) teaches Aboriginal literatures and Aboriginal Studies at the University of Toronto. In addition to numerous publications in Native literary criticism, he is the author of Our Fire Survives the Storm: A Cherokee Literary History and The Way of Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles. DEBORAH MIRANDA is a Two-Spirit Ohlone-Costanoan Esselen Nation/Chumash poet and scholar and is currently an associate professor of English at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. She is the author of The Zen of La Llorona and Indian Cartography. LISA TATONETTI is an associate professor of English and American Ethnic Studies at Kansas State University, where she studies, teaches, and publishes on Two-Spirit literatures.

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Sing
Poetry from the Indigenous Americas
Edited by ALLISON ADELLE HEDGE COKE

A landmark anthology of Native poetry

Editor and poet Allison Hedge Coke assembles this multilingual collection of Indigenous American poetry, joining voices old and new in songs of witness and reclamation. Unprecedented in scope, Sing gathers more than eighty poets from across the Americas, covering territory that stretches from Alaska to Chile, and features familiar names like Sherwin Bitsui, Louise Erdrich, Joy Harjo, Lee Maracle, and Simon Ortiz alongside international poets—both emerging and acclaimed—from regions underrepresented in anthologies.

They write from disparate zones and parallel experience, from lands of mounded earthwork long-since paved, from lands of ancient ball courts and the first great cities on the continents, from places of cold, from places of volcanic loam, from zones of erased history and ongoing armed conflict, where “postcolonial” is not an academic concept but a lived reality. As befits a volume of such geographical inclusivity, many poems here appear in multiple languages, translated by fellow poets and writers like Juan Felipe Herrera and Cristina Eisenberg.

Hedge Coke’s thematic organization of the poems gives them an added resonance and continuity, and readers will appreciate the story of the genesis of this project related in Hedge Coke’s deeply felt introduction, which details her experiences as an invited performer at several international poetry festivals. Sing is a journey compelled by the exploration of kinship and the desire for songs that open “pathways of return.”

ALLISON ADELLE HEDGE COKE currently holds the Reynolds Chair at the University of Nebraska, Kearney. She is the American Book Award–winning author of several volumes of poetry and creative nonfiction, including Blood Run, a volume leading the pathway to preserving a traditional sacred site, Off-Season City Pipe, a cultural labor edition, and Rock, Ghost, Willow, Deer, a landscape and cultural ethos memoir. Her edited literary collections include Effigies: An Anthology of New Indigenous Writing, Pacific Rim, 2009.

“Many of the poems in this ambitious collection remind us why we read poetry at all—to be returned to the elemental, to relish the beauty of repetition and variation, and to hear the cries of singular voices, here marginalized because of their native culture but also because of the daring announcement of their individuality”
—Billy Collins

“This collection is an entrance into that part of ‘America’ without which there is no real America and not even a real United States. It is a bravura collection, a long needed anthology of those antediluvian descendants of the western hemisphere.” —Amiri Baraka

“A multilingual feast of songs, bringing together established and emerging indigenous poets in South, Central, and North America. With poems presented in their original languages, this anthology is a ground-breaking collection.” —Arthur Sze
Earth Wisdom
A California Chumash Woman

YOLANDA BROYLES-GONZÁLEZ and PILULAW KHUS

A Native woman’s view of activism and identity

Pilulaw Khus has devoted her life to tribal, environmental, and human rights issues. With impressive candor and detail, she recounts those struggles here, offering a Native woman’s perspective on California history and the production of knowledge about indigenous peoples. Readers interested in tribal history will find in her story a spiritual counterpoint to prevailing academic views on the complicated reemergence of a Chumash identity. Readers interested in environmental studies will find vital eyewitness accounts of movements to safeguard important sites like Painted Rock and San Simeon Point from developers. Readers interested in indigenous storytelling will find Chumash origin tales and oral history as recounted by a gifted storyteller.

The 1978 Point Conception Occupation was a turning point in Pilulaw Khus’s life. In that year excavation began for a new natural gas facility at Point Conception, near Santa Barbara, California. To the Chumash tribal people of the central California coast, this was desecration of sacred land. In the Chumash cosmology, it was the site of the Western Gate, a passageway for spirits to enter the next world. Frustrated by unfavorable court hearings, the Chumash and their allies mobilized a year-long occupation of the disputed site, eventually forcing the energy company to abandon its plan. The Point Conception Occupation was a landmark event in the cultural revitalization of the Chumash people and a turning point in the life of Pilulaw Khus, the Chumash activist and medicine woman whose firsthand narrations comprise this volume.

Scholar Yolanda Broyles-González provides an extensive introductory analysis of Khus’s narrative. Her analysis explores “re-Indianization” and highlights the newly emergent Chumash research of the last decade.

YOLANDA BROYLES-GONZÁLEZ is professor of Mexican American and Raza Studies at the University of Arizona. She is the editor of Re-Emerging Native Women of the Americas: A Native Chicana Latina Women’s Studies Reader and author of El Teatro Campesino: Theater in the Chicano Movement and Lydia Mendoza’s Life in Music: Norteño Tejano Legacies.

PILULAW KHUS is a Chumash ceremonial elder, clan mother, and medicine carrier of the northern Chumash Bear Clan.

“This is one of the most extraordinary collaborations between a scholar and Indigenous activist that I have read.” —Greg Cajete (Santa Clara Pueblo), Director of Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico

“Yolanda Broyles-González’s book on the Chumash of the Santa Barbara is superb. She tells the lessons of Pilulaw Khus, a California Chumash woman, elder and activist. This is a bridge too long neglected by Latina/o scholars.” —Rudy Acuña, author of Corridors of Migration: The Odyssey of Mexican Laborers, 1600–1933
Cultural context for both drinking and recovery

In recent years, efforts to recognize and accommodate cultural diversity have gained some traction in the politics of US health care. But to date, anthropological perspectives have figured unevenly in efforts to define and address mental health problems. Particularly challenging are examinations of Native peoples’ experiences with alcohol.

Erica Prussing provides the first in-depth assessment of the politics of Native sobriety by focusing on the Northern Cheyenne community in southeastern Montana, where for many decades the federally funded health care system has relied on the Twelve Step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. *White Man’s Water* provides a thoughtful and careful analysis of Cheyenne views of sobriety and the politics that surround the selective appeal of Twelve Step approaches despite wide-ranging local critiques. Narratives from participants in these programs debunk long-standing stereotypes about “Indian drinking” and offer insight into the diversity of experiences with alcohol that actually occur among Native North Americans.

This critical ethnography employs vivid accounts of the Northern Cheyenne people to depict how problems with alcohol are culturally constructed, showing how differences in age, gender, and other social features can affect involvement with both drinking and sobriety. These testimonies reveal the key role that gender plays in how Twelve Step program participants engage in a selective and creative process of appropriation at Northern Cheyenne, adapting the program to accommodate local cultural priorities and spiritual resources. The testimonies also illuminate community reactions to these adaptations, inspiring deeper inquiry into how federally funded health services are provided on the reservation.

This book will appeal to readers with an interest in Native studies, ethnography, women’s studies, and medical anthropology. With its critical consideration of how cultural context shapes drinking and sobriety, *White Man’s Water* offers a multivocal perspective on alcohol’s impact on health and the cultural complexities of sobriety.

ERICA PRUSSING is an assistant professor of anthropology and community and behavioral health at the University of Iowa. She has published articles in *Ethos* and *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*.

“One of the most compelling strengths of this book is the vividness of the narratives selected by Prussing. The greatest contribution, and one that will be broadly influential, is her insistence on multiplicty and multivocality, in direct challenge to the totalizing and homogenizing discourses that abound across academia.”

—Carolyn Smith-Morris, author of *Diabetes among the Pima: Stories of Survival*
Sweet and savory recipes offer a taste of the desert

Over the last few decades, interest in eating locally has grown quickly. From just-picked apples in Washington to fresh peaches in Georgia, local food movements and farmer’s markets have proliferated all over the country. Desert dwellers in the Southwest are taking a new look at prickly pear, mesquite, and other native plants.

Many people’s idea of cooking with southwestern plants begins and ends with prickly pear jelly. With this update of the classic Tumbleweed Gourmet, master cook Carolyn Niethammer opens a window on the incredible bounty of the southwestern deserts and offers recipes to help you bring these plants to your table. Included here are sections featuring each of twenty-three different desert plants. The chapters include basic information, harvesting techniques, and general characteristics. But the real treat comes in the form of some 150 recipes collected or developed by the author herself. Ranging from everyday to gourmet, from simple to complex, these recipes offer something for cooks of all skill levels. Some of the recipes also include stories about their origin, and readers are encouraged to tinker with the ingredients and enjoy desert foods as part of their regular diet.

Featuring Paul Mirocha’s finely drawn illustrations of the various southwestern plants discussed, this volume will serve as an indispensable guide from harvest to table. Whether you’re looking for more ways to prepare local foods or ideas for sustainable harvesting, or just want to expand your palette to take in some out-of-the-ordinary flavors, Cooking the Wild Southwest is sure to delight.

CAROLYN J. NIETHAMMER is a wild-food expert, a master cook, and the award-winning author of several books, including The New Southwest Cookbook, American Indian Cooking, and The Prickly Pear Cookbook. She lives in Tucson, Arizona.

“For those whose love of the Southwest is more than an abstraction, Carolyn Niethammer has once again provided tasty (not merely nutritious) recipes, and rich and fulfilling treats as well as wholesome, healthful dietary basics, all derived from plants of southwestern origin.” —David Yetman, host of The Desert Speaks

“This book mines a landscape of tough desert plants and finds a veritable vegetable garden, providing a deft fusion of age-old edibles transformed into foods that appeal to the modern palate.” —J. A. Jance, author of the New York Times Bestseller Queen of the Night

“In this easy-to-read book on wild foods, the author leads the forager from the field to the palate, and for the experienced forager there are lots of new recipes to experiment with. Cooking the Wild Southwest will empower you to go wild!” —Vickie Shufer, naturalist, forager, and editor of the Wild Foods Forum newsletter
Nopalito Slaw
Makes 12 servings
2 cups sliced prickly pear pads
1 tablespoon olive oil
3 cups finely sliced green cabbage
1 cup finely sliced red cabbage

Dressing:
6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon honey
3 tablespoons wine vinegar
1 teaspoon prepared mustard

Slice cleaned prickly pear pads thinly, about the size of a French-cut green bean. Heat oil in a heavy bottomed frying pan over medium heat. Add prickly pear slices and stir until they change color and are slightly shriveled. Put the cabbage in a medium bowl, add the cooked prickly pear pads and mix. Prepare the dressing by pouring the olive oil into a bowl. Whisk in the vinegar and mustard until thick. Finally whisk in honey. Pour over vegetables, toss and serve.

Mesquite Pumpkin Pudding
Makes 6–8 servings
1 3/4 cup mashed pumpkin
1/4 cup fine mesquite meal
1/4 cup mesquite broth
1 12-ounce can evaporated milk
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 to 4 tablespoons agave syrup or honey
2 beaten eggs

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Combine pumpkin, mesquite meal and broth, milk and cinnamon in food processor bowl or in a deep bowl with an electric mixer. Taste and add additional sweetener if you wish. Beat in eggs. Pour into shallow casserole or pie dish and bake in preheated oven for 50 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between the rim and the center comes out clean.

Prickly Pear Sangria
Makes 1 quart
2 1/2 cups red or rosé wine
1/2 cup orange juice
1/2 cup apple juice
1/2 cup prickly pear syrup, commercial or homemade
1/2 apple, diced fine
1/2 orange, quartered and sliced

You needn’t use an expensive wine for this. Any good drinkable red or rose will do.

Combine juices and chill. Add fresh fruit before serving from a bowl or put a little in each glass.
Last Water on the Devil’s Highway
A Cultural and Natural History of Tinajas Altas

BILL BROYLES, GAYLE HARRISON HARTMANN, THOMAS E. SHERIDAN, GARY PAUL NABHAN, and MARY CHARLOTTE THURTLE

A sojourn to an extraordinary place

The Devil’s Highway—El Camino del Diablo—crosses hundreds of miles and thousands of years of Arizona and Southwest history. This heritage trail follows a torturous route along the US-Mexico border through a lonely landscape of cactus, desert flats, drifting sand dunes, ancient lava flows, and searing summer heat. The most famous waterhole along the way is Tinajas Altas, or High Tanks, a series of natural rock basins that are among the few reliable sources of water in this notoriously parched region.

Now an expert cast of authors describes, narrates, and explains the human and natural history of this special place in a thorough and readable account. Addressing the latest archaeological and historical findings, they reveal why Tinajas Altas was so important and how it related to other waterholes in the arid borderlands. Readers can feel like pioneers following in the footsteps of early Native Americans, Spanish priests and soldiers, gold seekers, and borderlands explorers, tourists, and scholars.

Combining authoritative writing with a rich array of more than 180 illustrations and maps as well as detailed appendixes providing up-to-date information on the wildlife and plants that live in the area, Last Water on the Devil’s Highway allows readers to uncover the secrets of this fascinating place, revealing why it still attracts intrepid tourists and campers today.

BILL BROYLES is a research associate at the University of Arizona’s Southwest Center. He is the author or editor of several books, including Our Sonoran Desert, and Sunshot: Peril and Wonder in the Gran Desierto. GAYLE HARRISON HARTMANN has spent the last 35 years working in a variety of archaeological capacities throughout southern Arizona, including serving as editor of Kiva: The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History. She is currently a research associate at the University of Arizona’s Arizona State Museum. THOMAS E. SHERIDAN holds a joint appointment as professor of anthropology at the Southwest Center and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. He has authored or co-edited twelve other books, including Arizona: A History. GARY PAUL NABHAN is an Arab-American writer, lecturer, food and farming advocate, rural lifeways folklorist, and conservationist whose work has long been rooted in the US-Mexico borderlands region. His many books include The Desert Smells Like Rain and Gathering the Desert. MARY CHARLOTTE THURTLE was the field director for the Tinajas Altas Archaeological Survey in 1998. After 13 years as a professional archaeologist researching the cultures of the Southwest, she has recently returned to documentary filmmaking as the executive director of Pan Left Productions.
Twelve Hundred Miles by Horse and Burro

J. Stokely Ligon and New Mexico’s First Breeding Bird Survey

HARLEY G. SHAW and MARA E. WEISENBERGER

A historic trek by an early naturalist

J. Stokely Ligon’s work in bird conservation, habitat protection, and wildlife legislation during the mid-twentieth century is well-documented in his own writing and the writing of others. But hovering in the background of Ligon’s life story has always been the rumor of a trip he made alone as a young man in 1913 in which he covered much of New Mexico alone on horseback. Details of the trip had faded into history, and Ligon—a self-effacing man—had never published the story.

As it turns out, the trek was Ligon’s first job with the US Biological Survey, and it did not go entirely undocumented. The breeding–bird population report that eventually resulted from the journey, photographs from glass plate negatives, and—perhaps most enticingly—Ligon’s own personal diary from these travels are presented here. Not just a compelling account of the expedition itself, the materials and insights found in this volume also reveal aspects of Ligon’s family history, his early interest in wildlife, and the development of the wilderness skills needed to undertake such a survey.

Using his original itinerary and handwritten report, the authors of this book revisited many of the places that Ligon surveyed and in a few cases were even able to locate and repeat Ligon’s early photographs. Combined with a discussion of the conditions of birds and other wildlife then and now, this volume serves as a useful tool for understanding how wildlife numbers, distribution, and habitats changed in New Mexico over the course of the twentieth century.

Birding enthusiasts, historians, naturalists, and even armchair adventurers will all find something to love in this chronicle of a young man from a West Texas ranching family with a driving ambition to be a professional naturalist and writer.

HARLEY G. SHAW is a wildlife consultant and retired research biologist. He is the author of Soul Among Lions: The Cougar as Peaceful Adversary and Stalking the Big Bird: A Tale of Turkeys, Biologists, and Bureaucrats, both published by the University of Arizona Press. MARA E. WEISENBERGER is a wildlife biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

“A snapshot of the environment of New Mexico early in the twentieth century, a pivotal time in the Southwest, through the eyes of a naturalist who was doing biological research the old way.”

—Rose Houk, author of The Mountains Know Arizona: Images of the Land and Stories of Its People
This book is a thorough investigation of the most human responses to the most difficult of human situations, undocumented migration. It brings our sensibility down from the raw numbers and data to the level of human feeling and solidarity for one’s brother and sister. Few studies in the literature on migration that combine the language of globalization, civil religion, spiritual duty, and civic organization. Van Ham’s narrative is thorough, clear, intense, and engaging.” —Tony Payan, author of The Three U.S.–Mexico Border Wars: Drugs, Immigration, and Homeland Security
Rascuache Lawyer
Toward a Theory of Ordinary Litigation
ALFREDO MIRANDÉ

Legal advocacy for the downtrodden

Alfredo Mirandé, a sociology professor, Stanford Law graduate, and part-time pro bono attorney, represents clients who are rascuache—a Spanish word for “poor” or even “wretched”—and on the margins of society. For Mirandé, however, rascuache means to be “down but not out,” an underdog who is still holding its ground. Rascuache Lawyer offers a unique perspective on providing legal services to poor, usually minority, folks who are often just one short step from jail. Not only a passionate argument for rascuache lawyering, it is also a thoughtful, practical attempt to apply and test critical race theory—particularly Latino critical race theory—in day-to-day legal practice.

Every chapter presents an actual case from Mirandé’s experience (only the names and places have been changed). His clients have been charged with everything from carrying a concealed weapon, indecent exposure, and trespassing to attempted murder, domestic violence, and child abuse. Among them are recent Mexican immigrants, drug addicts, gang members, and the homeless. All of them are destitute, and many are victims of racial profiling. Some “pay” Mirandé with bartered services such as painting, home repairs, or mechanical work on his car. And Mirandé doesn’t always win their cases. But, as he recounts, he certainly works tirelessly to pursue all legal remedies.

Each case is presented as a letter to a fascinating (fictional) “Super Chicana” named Fermina Gabriel, who we are told is an accomplished lawyer, author, and singer. This narrative device allows the author to present his cases as if he were recounting them to a friend, drawing in the reader as a friend as well.

Bookending the individual cases, Mirandé’s introductions and conclusions offer a compelling vision of progressive legal practice grounded in rascuache lawyering.

ALFREDO MIRANDÉ is a professor of sociology and ethnic studies at the University of California, Riverside. He has a JD from the Stanford University School of Law and is the author of six books, including The Stanford Law Chronicles: Doin’ Time on the Farm. He maintains a small pro bono law practice.

“This book focuses on the manner in which the court system handles cases of Latino criminal defendants and how the system itself is biased. It will provide lawyers with a very good road map for litigation and the many pitfalls they will encounter as they represent this unique class of clients.” — Henry Flores, co-author of Mexican Americans and the Law: ¡El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!
Immigration Law and the U.S.–Mexico Border ¿Sí se puede?

KEVIN R. JOHNSON and BERNARD TRUJILLO

An accessible introduction to a hot-button topic

Americans from radically different political persuasions agree on the need to “fix” the “broken” US immigration laws to address serious deficiencies and improve border enforcement. In Immigration Law and the US–Mexico Border, Kevin Johnson and Bernard Trujillo focus on what for many is at the core of the entire immigration debate in modern America: immigration from Mexico.

In clear, reasonable prose, Johnson and Trujillo explore the long history of discrimination against US citizens of Mexican ancestry in the United States and the current movement against “illegal aliens”—persons depicted as not deserving fair treatment by US law. The authors argue that the United States has a special relationship with Mexico by virtue of sharing a 2,000-mile border and a “land-grab of epic proportions” when the United States “acquired” nearly two-thirds of Mexican territory between 1836 and 1853.

The authors explain US immigration law and policy in its many aspects—including the migration of labor, the place of state and local regulation over immigration, and the contributions of Mexican immigrants to the US economy. Their objective is to help thinking citizens on both sides of the border to sort through an issue with a long, emotional history that will undoubtedly continue to inflame politics until cooler, and better-informed, heads can prevail. The authors conclude by outlining possibilities for the future, sketching a possible movement to promote social justice. Great for use by students of immigration law, border studies, and Latino studies, this book will also be of interest to anyone wondering about the general state of immigration law as it pertains to our most troublesome border.

KEVIN R. JOHNSON is Dean of the School of Law and Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law and Chicano/a Studies at the University of California, Davis. He is also the president of the Board for Legal Services of Northern California. He is the author of The “Huddled Masses” Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights. BERNARD TRUJILLO is a professor of law at Valparaiso University.

“This is the first book to offer an introduction to immigration law and policy focusing on Mexican migration and Mexican Americans. Johnson is one of our nation’s leading authorities on immigration law as well as on issues of race and civil rights.”
—George A. Martinez, co-editor of A Reader on Race, Civil Rights, and American Law: A Multiracial Approach
Mexico, Nation in Transit
Contemporary Representations of Mexican Migration to the United States
CHRISTINA L. SISK

Mexican migration in film, literature, and music

Mexico, Nation in Transit examines how the Mexican migrant population in the United States is represented in the Mexican national imaginary—on both sides of the border. Exploring representations of migration in literature, film, and music produced in the past twenty years, Christina Sisk argues that Mexico is imagined as a nation that exists outside of its territorial borders and into the United States. Although some Americans feel threatened by the determined resilience of Mexican national identity among immigrants, Sisk counters that the persistence of immigrant Mexicans’ identities with their homeland—with the cities, states, regions, and nation where they were born or have family—is not in opposition to their identity as Americans.

Sisk’s transnational investigation moves easily across the US–Mexico border, analyzing films made on both sides, literature de la frontera, Mexican rock music, migrant narratives, and texts written by second- and third-generation immigrants. Included are the perspectives of those who left Mexico, those who were left behind, and the children who travel back “home.” Sisk discovers that the loss of Mexicans to the United States through emigration has had an effect on Mexico similar to the impact of the perceived Mexican invasion of the United States.

Spanning the social sciences and the humanities, Mexico, Nation in Transit poses a new transnational alternative to the postnational view that geopolitical borders are being erased by the forces of migration and globalization, and the nationalist view that borders must be strictly enforced. It shows that borders, like identities, are not easy to locate precisely.

CHRISTINA L. SISK is an assistant professor in the Department of Hispanic Studies at the University of Houston.

“This book contains valuable insights regarding the complex nature of migration, transnational processes, and diverse forms of cultural citizenship and identity. Sisk’s analysis helps us not only to distinguish clearly between transborder crossing and migration but also to conceptualize the importance of the transnational as an alternative way to understand social realities simply characterized as post-national by other critics.” —Ignacio Corona, co-editor of Gender Violence at the U.S.–Mexico Border: Media Representation and Public Response
The economic realities of transborder culture

In this volume the borders of North America serve as central locations for examining the consequences of globalization as it intersects with hegemonic spaces and ideas, national territorialism, and opportunities for—or restrictions on—mobility. The authors of the essays in this collection use bottom up, non-state, and denationalized approaches to prevent falling victim to the myth of nation-states engaging in a valiant struggle against transnational flows of contraband and vice. They take a long historical perspective, from Mesoamerican counterfeits of cacao beans used as currency to human trafficking; from Canada’s and Mexico’s different approaches to the illegality of liquor in the US during prohibition to contemporary case studies of the transnational movement of people, crime, narcotics, vice, and even ideas.

By studying the historical flows of contraband and vice across North American borders, the contributors seek to bring a greater understanding of borderlanders, the actual agents of historical change who often remain on the periphery of most historical analyses that focus on the state or policy. In addition, they also employ the analytical categories of race, class, modernity, and gender, focusing on the ways that power relations created opportunities for engaging in “deviance,” thus questioning the very constructs of criminality. Looking through the lens of transnational flows of contraband and vice, the authors develop a new understanding of nation, immigration, modernization, globalization, consumer society, and border culture.

ELAINE CAREY is an associate professor of history at St. John’s University in Queens, New York, and the Lloyd Sealy Research Fellow at CUNY’s John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is the author of Plaza of Sacrifices: Gender, Power, and Terror in 1968 Mexico. ANDRAE M. MARAK is the division head of liberal arts and an associate professor of history and political science at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus and an associate of the University Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of From Many, One: Indians, Peasants, Borders, and Education in Callista, Mexico, 1924–1935.

“This is a terrific book on an important and timely topic—flows of contraband and vice across the US–Mexico and US–Canada borders. The empirically rich historical case studies are fascinating and engaging. The collective research involved is impressive.” —Peter Andreas, co-editor of Sex, Drugs, and Body Counts: The Politics of Numbers in Global Crime and Conflict
The Big Empty
The Great Plains in the Twentieth Century
R. DOUGLAS HURT

A first-rate regional history from a leading scholar

The Great Plains, known for grasslands that stretch to the horizon, is a difficult region to define. Some classify it as the region beginning in the east at the ninety-eighth or one-hundredth meridian. Others identify the eastern boundary with annual precipitation lines, soil composition, or length of the grass. In The Big Empty, leading historian R. Douglas Hurt defines this region using the towns and cities—Denver, Lincoln, and Fort Worth—that made a difference in the history of the environment, politics, and agriculture of the Great Plains.

Using the voices of women homesteaders, agrarian socialists, Jewish farmers, Mexican meatpackers, New Dealers, and Native Americans, this book creates a sweeping survey of contested race relations, radical politics, and agricultural prosperity and decline during the twentieth century. This narrative shows that even though Great Plains history is fraught with personal and group tensions, violence, and distress, the twentieth century also brought about compelling social, economic, and political change.

The only book of its kind, this account will be of interest to historians studying the region and to anyone inspired by the story of the men and women who found an opportunity for a better life in the Great Plains.

R. DOUGLAS HURT is a professor and the chair of the Department of History at Purdue University. He has written numerous books about the Great Plains, including The Great Plains during World War II and Problems of Plenty: The American Farmer in the Twentieth Century.

“This is an important book because it dares to take on—with much success—a topic, a region, and indeed a state of mind, none of which can be defined without considerable ambiguity or controversy. Hurt approaches the Great Plains primarily through social history, but also incorporates environmental, economic, and political history masterfully in this synthesis.” —David Vaught, author of After the Gold Rush: Tarnished Dreams in the Sacramento Valley

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Native American Performance and Representation

Edited by S. E. WILMER

Available for the first time in paperback

Native American Performance and Representation provides a wide and comprehensive study of Native performance presenting diverse viewpoints from scholars and performers in this field, both Natives and non-Natives. Important and well-respected researchers and performers such as Bruce McConachie, Jorge Huerta, and Daystar/Rosalie Jones offer much-needed insight into this quickly expanding field of study.

“This volume goes some distance in reconstructing lost or little-known aspects of Native American history and theatre history and in providing impressive evidence of the merging of visual arts, music, dance, and theater by and about Native Americans.” —Choice

S. E. WILMER is an associate professor of drama and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin, and he has served as a visiting professor at Stanford University and UC Berkeley. He is the author of Theatre, Society, and the Nation: Staging American Identities. He is also a playwright, and his plays have been produced in venues around the world, including New York’s Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Memories of a Hyphenated Man

RAMÓN EDUARDO RUIZ URUETA

Back in print—first time in paperback

Memories of a Hyphenated Man is the unique story of Ramón Eduardo Ruiz, established author and winner of the 1998 National Humanities Medal, who charted new directions in Latin American research through his writing. This personal tale poignantly addresses the ambiguities associated with race, class, citizenship, and nationality for Mexicans and Mexican Americans.

“This book possesses numerous strengths, not least of which are the personal insights presented from someone who was both an insider and an outsider to such historical dramas as military service in World War II, the Red Scare of the 1950s, the tumultuous decade of the 1960s, and the opening of academia to Mexican Americans through affirmative action. For the young and aspiring Latino intellectual of the twenty-first century, this autobiography is an essential starting point. Spanning nearly eight decades, Memories of a Hyphenated Man provides a personal window into the life and thought of a true pioneer in American intellectual history and is a testimony to the triumph of the human spirit.” —Mark Saad Saka, co-editor of Silent No More! A Multicultural Reader

Before his death in 2010, RAMÓN EDUARDO RUIZ URUETA was Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Diego, where he had served as chairman of the Department of History from 1971-1976.
Winning Their Place
Arizona Women in Politics, 1883–1950
HEIDI J. OSSELAER

Available for the first time in paperback

“Winning Their Place is a fascinating study documenting the efforts of Anglo-American women to achieve suffrage. It makes an important contribution to our understanding of women in partisan and electoral politics.” —Sherry J. Katz, co-author of Contesting Archives: Finding Women in the Sources

“Winning Their Place is an excellent book that provides valuable information about a previously unpublished area of Arizona women’s history.” —Journal of Arizona History

“Osselaer’s book is more than a recovery of a lost history; it is an astutely detailed and well-reasoned analysis of the personal and structural factors that brought women into politics and allowed them to succeed.” —Journal of American History

HEIDI J. OSSELAER teaches history at Arizona State University.

Natives Making Nation
Gender, Indigeneity, and the State in the Andes
Edited by ANDREW CANESSA

Available for the first time in paperback

“This book has much to recommend it. Perhaps most important—and increasingly unusual for edited volumes—is how well the studies fit together. Collectively, the volume eschews more standard approaches to the study of indigenous groups. . . . Contributors aim here to explore how notions of state and identity are individually lived and physically experienced.” —Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development

“For scholars and students interested in identity making in the Andean region, this book is obviously a must.” —Latin American Studies

ANDREW CANESSA is Director of the Centre for Latin American Studies at the University of Essex and the author of Pocobaya: Género e identidad en una aldea andina.
Juan De Castro’s book will bring an entirely new understanding of the relation between Vargas Llosa’s political thought and his literary oeuvre. In particular, it combats the many myths about Vargas Llosa’s standing toward race, intellectuals, liberalism, neoliberalism, and many other social, cultural, and political issues.”

—Ignacio López-Calvo, author of Latino Los Angeles in Film and Fiction
From Beneath the Volcano
The Story of a Salvadoran Campesino and His Family

MICHAEL GORKIN and MARTA EVELYN PINEDA

From farmer to revolutionary—and back again

“These things that I have lived, I want others to hear. I want them to know me and my family. And our country, and why we fought.” —Luis Campos

In 1980 El Salvador was plunged into a bloody civil war, and Luis Campos, a peasant farmer, found himself drawn into a deadly political maelstrom of guerrilla fighting for twelve years. In this collection of fascinating and revealing oral histories, Gorkin and Pineda portray the personal and social lives of Luis and his family, who for the past eighteen years have been working to rebuild their lives in their new community beneath the Guazapa volcano.

Luis, his mother, his wife, his in-laws, his children, and some neighbors recall in a simple and often eloquent manner their experiences of everyday life before, during, and after the civil war. Niña Bonafacia, Luis’s mother, tells of the days before the war when two of her daughters were murdered and she fled with her family to a refugee camp. Julia, Luis’s wife, recounts her life as a guerrillera during which, incidentally, she gave birth to the first two of her eight children. Joaquín, a neighbor and comrade-in-arms, discusses how he and others took control of the land of Comunidad Guazapa and began rebuilding in those turbulent days and months right after the war. Margarita and Francisco, the two oldest children, with candor and insight discuss the trajectory of their lives and that of the postwar generation. And at the center of all these stories stands Luis, the guerrillero, farmer, neighbor, husband, father—and raconteur par excellence.

In sum, the multiple voices in From Beneath the Volcano combine to form a rich tapestry displaying a story of war, family, and community and provide a never-before-seen view of both the past and present El Salvador.

MICHAEL GORKIN, PhD, is a psychologist and was twice a Fulbright scholar in El Salvador. He is the author of Days of Honey, Days of Onion: The Story of a Palestinian Family in Israel, and Three Mothers, Three Daughters: Palestinian Women’s Stories. MARTA EVELYN PINEDA is a Salvadoran-trained psychologist and co-author (with Michael Gorkin) of From Grandmother to Granddaughter: Salvadoran Women’s Stories. They are married and live in Florida.

“This is a fascinating, engaging, and important work. It draws us intimately into the lives of one family in rural El Salvador. Through their voices, we come to understand how campesinos experienced the conflict of the 1980s—in guerrilla camps, refugee camps, and war zones—and the consequences of that conflict for their lives and relationships today. Gorkin and Pineda eloquently achieve what oral historians ultimately hope to do: they get us to care about these people at the same time as they enlighten us about the complexities of their lives. This is an extraordinary book.” —Jocelyn Viterna, Harvard University
Aconcagua
The Invention of Mountaineering on America’s Highest Peak
JOY LOGAN

Adventure tourism’s impact on a local community

Aconcagua is the highest mountain in the Americas and the tallest mountain in the world outside of the Himalayas. Located in the Andes Mountains of Argentina, near the city of Mendoza, Aconcagua has been luring European mountain climbers since 1883, when a German geologist nearly reached the mountain’s summit. (A Swiss climber finally made the ascent in 1897.) In this fascinating book, Joy Logan explores the many impacts of mountaineering’s “discovery” of Aconcagua including its effect on how local indigenous history is understood. The consequences still resonate today, as the region has become a magnet for “adventure travelers,” with about 7,000 climbers and trekkers from all over the world visiting each year.

Having done fieldwork on Aconcagua for six years, Logan offers keen insights into how the invention of mountaineering in the nineteenth century—and adventure tourism a century later—have both shaped and been shaped by local and global cultural narratives. She examines the roles and functions of mountain guides, especially in regard to notions of gender and nation; re-reads the mountaineering stories forged by explorers, scientists, tourism officials, and the gear industry; and considers the distinctions between foreign and Argentine climbers (some of whom are celebrities in their own right).

In Logan’s revealing analysis, Aconcagua is emblematic of the tensions produced by modernity, nation-building, tourism development, and re-ethnification. The evolution of mountain climbing on Aconcagua registers seismic shifts in attitudes toward adventure, the national, and the global. With an eye for detail and a flair for description, Logan invites her readers onto the mountain and into the lives it supports.

JOY LOGAN is a professor of Spanish and Latin American and Iberian Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

“Logan’s work is exciting and provocative because it brings new attention to a neglected area of the field: the Andean region of Argentina. This book is one of the first to examine the hybrid and often ambiguous operations of modernity through such a compelling avenue of research: the development of adventure tourism.” —Marcia Stephenson, author of Gender and Modernity in Andean Bolivia
Revolutionary Parks
Conservation, Social Justice, and Mexico’s National Parks, 1910–1940
EMILY WAKILD

A radical example of government foresight

Revolutionary Parks tells the surprising story of how forty national parks were created in Mexico during the latter stages of the first social revolution of the twentieth century. By 1940 Mexico had more national parks than any other country. Together they protected more than two million acres of land in fourteen states. Even more remarkable, Lázaro Cárdenas, president of Mexico in the 1930s, began to promote concepts akin to sustainable development and ecotourism.

Conventional wisdom indicates that tropical and post-colonial countries, especially in the early twentieth century, have seldom had the ability or the ambition to protect nature on a national scale. It is also unusual for any country to make conservation a political priority in the middle of major reforms after a revolution. What emerges in Emily Wakild’s deft inquiry is the story of a nature protection program that takes into account the history, society, and culture of the times. Wakild employs case studies of four parks to show how the revolutionary momentum coalesced to create early environmentalism in Mexico.

According to Wakild, Mexico’s national parks were the outgrowth of revolutionary affinities for both rational science and social justice. Yet, rather than reserves set aside solely for ecology or politics, rural people continued to inhabit these landscapes and use them for a range of activities, from growing crops to producing charcoal. Sympathy for rural people tempered the radicalism of scientific conservationists. This fine balance between recognizing the morally valuable, if not always economically profitable, work of rural people and designing a revolutionary state that respected ecological limits proved to be a radical episode of government foresight.

EMILY WAKILD is an assistant professor of history at Wake Forest University.

“This is an original, well-researched, and important piece of scholarship. Wakild has managed to address a wide range of themes within a narrow—and thus nicely detailed and rich—scope.” —Raymond Craib, author of Cartographic Mexico: A History of State Fixations and Fugitive Landscapes

“This book shines a light on another aspect of the Mexican Revolution—that of state-embraced conservation in tandem with land reform. It shows how environmental, social and cultural history can be integrated into a study of conservation.” —Lane Simonian, author of Defending the Land of the Jaguar: A History of Conservation in Mexico
Addressing climate change at multiple levels

This timely volume challenges the notion that because climate change is inherently a global problem, only coordinated actions on a global scale can lead to a solution. It considers the perspective that since climate change itself has both global and local causes and implications, the most effective policies for adapting to and mitigating climate change must involve governments and communities at many different levels.

Federalism—the system of government in which power is divided among a national government and state and regional governments—is well-suited to address the challenges of climate change because it permits distinctive policy responses at a variety of scales. The chapters in this book explore questions such as what are appropriate relationships between states, tribes, and the federal government as each actively pursues climate-change policies? How much leeway should states have in designing and implementing climate-change policies, and how extensively should the federal government exercise its preemption powers to constrain state activity? What climate-change strategies are states best suited to pursue, and what role, if any, will regional state-based collaborations and associations play? This book examines these questions from a variety of perspectives, blending legal and policy analyses to provide thought-provoking coverage of how governments in a federal system cooperate, coordinate, and accommodate one another to address this global problem.

Navigating Climate Change Policy is an essential resource for policymakers and judges at all levels of government who deal with questions of climate governance. It will also serve as an important addition to the curriculum on climate change and environmental policy in graduate and undergraduate courses and will be of interest to anyone concerned with how the government addresses environmental issues.

EDELLA C. SCHLAGER is a professor in the School of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on western water institutions, law, policy, and governance. She is the co-author of two books: Common Waters, Diverging Streams: Linking Institutions and Water Management in Arizona, California, and Colorado and Embracing Watershed Politics. KIRSTEN H. ENGEL has a broad background in environmental law and policy that spans academia and public sector practice. Most recently she has devoted her scholarship and public outreach to issues surrounding global climate change and specifically the response to climate change by subnational units of government. She has held visiting professorships at the Harvard Law School and the Vanderbilt School of Law. SALLY RIDER is the director of the nonpartisan William H. Rehnquist Center on the Constitutional Structures of Government at the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law.
Ethnographic Contributions to the Study of Endangered Languages

Edited by TANIA GRANADILLO and HEIDI A. ORCUTT-GACHIRI

Addressing the needs of specific communities

It is a feature of the twenty-first century that world languages are displacing local languages at an alarming rate, transforming social relations and complicating cultural transmission in the process. This language shift—the gradual abandonment of minority languages in favor of national or international languages—is often in response to inequalities in power, signaling a pressure to conform to the political and economic structures represented by the newly dominant languages. In its most extreme form, language shift can result in language death and thus the permanent loss of traditional knowledge and lifeways.

To combat this, indigenous and scholarly communities around the world have undertaken various efforts, from archiving and lexicography to the creation of educational and cultural programs. What works in one community, however, may not work in another. Indeed, while the causes of language endangerment may be familiar, the responses to it depend on “highly specific local conditions and opportunities.” In keeping with this premise, the editors of this volume insist that to understand language endangerment, “researchers and communities must come to understand what is happening to the speakers, not just what is happening to the language.” The eleven case studies assembled here strive to fill a gap in the study of endangered languages by providing much-needed sociohistorical and ethnographic context and thus connecting specific language phenomena to larger national and international issues.

The goal is to provide theoretical and methodological tools for researchers and organizers to best address the specific needs of communities facing language endangerment. The case studies here span regions as diverse as Kenya, Siberia, Papua New Guinea, Mexico, Venezuela, the United States, and Germany. The volume includes a foreword by linguistic anthropologist Jane Hill and an afterword by poet and linguist Ofelia Zepeda.

TANIA GRANADILLO is a professor of anthropology at the University of Western Ontario. Her research focuses on the endangered languages of the Amazon. HEIDI A. ORCUTT-GACHIRI is currently affiliated with the University of Arizona. Her research has focused on the discourses of education, nationalism, and development on language endangerment in Kenya.

“Language endangerment is one of the most important issues in anthropology and linguistics today. That is why careful, ethnographically oriented studies of the kind offered in this volume are so valuable. This book is clearly the work of a new generation of dynamic scholars committed to linguistic anthropological scholarship that is meaningful and useful to the people they study.” —Joel Sherzer, author of Kuna Ways of Speaking
Death and Dying in Colonial Spanish America

Edited by MARTINA WILL DE CHAPARRO and MIRUNA ACHIM

Intersecting cultural perceptions of mortality

When the Spanish colonized the Americas, they brought many cultural beliefs and practices with them, not the least of which involved death and dying. The essays in this volume explore the resulting intersections of cultures through recent scholarship related to death and dying in colonial Spanish America between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. The authors address such important questions as: What were the relationships between the worlds of the living and the dead? How were these relationships sustained not just through religious dogma and rituals but also through everyday practices? How was unnatural death defined within different population strata? How did demographic and cultural changes affect mourning?

The variety of sources uncovered in the authors’ original archival research suggests the wide diversity of topics and approaches they employ: Nahua annals, Spanish chronicles, Inquisition case records, documents on land disputes, sermons, images, and death registers. Geographically, the range of research focuses on the viceroyalties of New Spain, Peru, and New Granada.

The resulting records—both documentary and archaeological—offer us a variety of vantage points from which to view each of these cultural groups as they came into contact with others. Much less tied to modern national boundaries or old imperial ones, the many facets of the new historical research exploring the topic of death demonstrate that no attitudes or practices can be considered either “Western” or universal.

MARTINA WILL DE CHAPARRO is an independent scholar and author of Death and Dying in New Mexico. MIRUNA ACHIM is an associate professor of humanities at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana–Cuajimalpa in Mexico City. She is the author of Lagartijas medicinales: Remedios americanos y debates ilustrados.

“These contributors ground their analysis on an impressive list of sources and in spite of their thematic and methodological diversity, these pieces are connected through common threads. The volume offers new insights on the history of death in colonial Peru and Mexico, a topic only a few authors have addressed in English in a systematic manner.” —Javier Villa-Flores, author of Dangerous Speech: A Social History of Blasphemy in Colonial Mexico
Women and Knowledge in Mesoamerica
From East L.A. to Anahuac

PALOMA MARTINEZ-CRUZ

Women healers as models of agency

Paloma Martinez-Cruz argues that the medicine traditions of Mesoamerican women constitute a hemispheric intellectual lineage that continues to thrive despite the legacy of colonization. Martinez-Cruz asserts that indigenous and mestiza women healers are custodians of a knowledge base that remains virtually uncharted.

The few works looking at the knowledge of women in Mesoamerica generally examine only the written—even academic—world, accessible only to the most elite segments of (customarily male) society. These works have consistently excluded the essential repertoire and performed knowledge of women who think and work in ways other than the textual. And while two of the book’s chapters critique contemporary novels, Martinez-Cruz also calls for the exploration of non-textual knowledge transmission. In this regard, its goals and methods are close to those of performance scholarship and anthropology, and these methods reveal Mesoamerican women to be public intellectuals. In Women and Knowledge in Mesoamerica, fieldwork and ethnography combine to reveal women healers as models of agency.

Her multidisciplinary approach allows Martinez-Cruz to disrupt Euro-based intellectual hegemony and to make a case for the epistemic authority of native women. Written from a Chicana perspective, this study is learned, personal, and engaging for anyone who is interested in the wisdom that prevailing analytical cultures have deemed “unintelligible.” As it turns out, those who are unacquainted with the sometimes surprising extent and depth of wisdom of indigenous women healers simply haven’t been looking in the right places—outside the texts from which they have been consistently excluded.

PALOMA MARTINEZ-CRUZ is an assistant professor of Spanish language and literature and Latino Studies at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. She is the translator of Conçecião Evaristo’s Brazilian novel Poncia Vicencio.

“This engaging book grabbed me from the first to the last page. Women and Knowledge in Mesoamerica is a brilliant achievement in interdisciplinary research that traces a clear line of indigenous discourses of knowledge in which individual, collective and ecological well-being are interconnected and must be diagnosed and treated together. This book is a significant and heartfelt contribution to women’s and gender studies, Latin American Studies, Chicana/o and Borderlands studies, as well as emerging intercultural dialogues on medicine and healing.” — Analisa Taylor, author of Indigeneity in the Mexican Cultural Imagination: Thresholds of Belonging
Imprints on Native Lands
The Miskito-Moravian Settlement Landscape in Honduras
BENJAMIN F. TILLMAN

Missionary impact on the built environment

More than one hundred fifty years ago, Moravian missionaries first landed along a so-called isolated stretch of Honduras’s Mosquito Coast bordering the western Caribbean Sea. The missionaries were sent, with the strong encouragement of German political leaders and in the context of German attempts at colonization, to “spread the word” of Protestantism in Central America. Upon their arrival, the missionaries employed a three-pronged approach consisting of proselytizing, medical treatment, and education to convert the majority of the indigenous population.

Much like the Spanish and English attempts before them, German colonizing efforts in the region never completely took hold. Still, as Benjamin Tillman shows, for the region’s indigenous inhabitants, the Miskito people, the arrival of the Moravian missionaries marked the beginning of an important cultural interface.

Imprints on Native Lands documents Moravian contributions to the Miskito settlement landscape in sixty-four villages of eastern Honduras through field observations of material culture, interviews with village residents, and research in primary sources in the Moravian Church archives. Tillman employs the resulting data to map a hierarchy of Moravian centers, illustrating spatially varying degrees of Moravian influence on the Miskito settlement landscape.

Tillman reinforces Miskito claims to ancestral lands by identifying and mapping their created ethnic landscape, as well as supporting earlier efforts at land-use mapping in the region. This book has broad implications, providing a methodology that will be of help to those with an interest in geography, anthropology, or Latin American studies, and to anyone interested in documenting and strengthening indigenous land claims.

BENJAMIN F. TILLMAN is an associate professor of geography at Texas Christian University.

“Following a rich tradition of cultural-historical geography, Tillman combines original field research, interviews, and empirical observations on the material landscape of the native Miskito peoples with his analysis of texts, maps, photographs, and other archival materials to produce a highly original treatise.” —Peter Herlihy, University of Kansas

“Well researched and based on extensive fieldwork, details provided by the author provide a convincing argument that the impact of Moravians on the Miskito landscape is significant.” —Matthew Taylor, University of Denver
State Healthcare and Yanomami Transformations
A Symmetrical Ethnography

JOSE ANTONIO KELLY

Indigenous-white relationships in healthcare

Amazonian indigenous peoples have preserved many aspects of their culture and cosmology while also developing complex relationships with dominant non-indigenous society. Until now, anthropological writing on Amazonian peoples has been divided between “traditional” topics like kinship, cosmology, ritual, and myth, on the one hand, and the analysis of their struggles with the nation-state on the other. What has been lacking is work that bridges these two approaches and takes into consideration the meaning of relationships with the state from an indigenous perspective.

That long-standing dichotomy is challenged in this new ethnography by anthropologist José Kelly. Kelly places the study of culture and cosmology squarely within the context of the modern nation-state and its institutions. He explores Indian-white relations as seen through the operation of a state-run health system among the indigenous Yanomami of southern Venezuela.

With theoretical foundations in the fields of medical and Amazonian anthropology, Kelly sheds light on how Amerindian cosmology shapes concepts of the state at the community level. The result is a symmetrical anthropology that treats white and Amerindian perceptions of each other within a single theoretical framework, thus expanding our understanding of each group and its influences on the other.

This book will be valuable to those studying Amazonian peoples, medical anthropology, development studies, and Latin America. Its new takes on theory and methodology make it ideal for classroom use.

JOSE ANTONIO KELLY is a lecturer in anthropology at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina.

“This introspective and comprehensive study in contemporary Venezuela is a prime example of a new turn taking place in twenty-first-century field anthropology. The most audacious, perspicacious, and practicable of the recent books in its genre.”
—Roy Wagner, author of Coyote Anthropology
The impact of belief systems on theory

Archaeologists have often used the term ideology to vaguely refer to a “realm of ideas.” Scholars from Marx to Zizek have developed a sharper concept, arguing that ideology works by representing—or misrepresenting—power relations through concealment, enhancement, or transformation of real social relations between groups. Ideologies in Archaeology examines the role of ideology in this latter sense as it pertains to both the practice and the content of archaeological studies. While ideas like reflexive archaeology and multivocality have generated some recent interest, this book is the first work to address in any detail the mutual relationship between ideologies of the past and present ideological conditions producing archaeological knowledge.

Contributors to this volume focus on elements of life in past societies that “went without saying” and that concealed different forms of power as obvious and unquestionable. From the use of burial rites as political theater in Iron Age Germany to the intersection of economics and elite power in Mississippian mound building, the contributors uncover complex manipulations of power that have often gone unrecognized. They show that Occam’s razor—the tendency to favor simpler explanations—is sometimes just an excuse to avoid dealing with the historical world in its full complexity.

Jean-Paul Demoule’s concluding chapter echoes this sentiment and moreover brings a continental European perspective to the preceding case studies. In addition to situating this volume in a wider history of archaeological currents, Demoule identifies the institutional and cultural factors that may account for the current direction in North American archaeology. He also offers a defense of archaeology in an era of scientific relativism, which leads him to reflect on the responsibilities of archaeologists.

REINHARD BERNBECK is a professor at the Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie, Freie Universität Berlin. He is the editor of several volumes, including Archaeologies of the Middle East: Critical Perspectives. He also serves on the advisory board for the journal Archaeologies.

RANDALL H. MCGUIRE is a Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at Binghamton University. He is the author of several books, including Archaeology as Political Action.
The Archaeology of Native-Lived Colonialism
Challenging History in the Great Lakes
NEAL FERRIS

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The Archaeology of Native-Lived Colonialism examines how communities from three aboriginal nations in what is now southwestern Ontario negotiated the changes that accompanied the arrival of Europeans and maintained a cultural continuity with their pasts that has been too often overlooked in conventional “master narrative” histories of contact.

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