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Fire and Ink
An Anthology of Social Action Writing

Edited by FRANCES PAYNE ADLER, DEBRA BUSMAN, and DIANA GARCÍA

Major writers working for social change

Fire and Ink is a powerful and impassioned anthology of stories, poems, interviews, and essays that confront some of the most pressing social issues of our day. Designed to inspire and inform, this collection embodies the concepts of “breaking silence,” “bearing witness,” resistance, and resilience. Beyond students and teachers, the book will appeal to all readers with a commitment to social justice.

Fire and Ink brings together, for the first time in one volume, politically engaged writing by poets, fiction writers, and essayists. Including many of our finest writers—Martín Espada, June Jordan, Patricia Smith, Gloria Anzaldúa, Sharon Olds, Arundhati Roy, Sonia Sanchez, Carolyn Forche, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Alice Walker, Linda Hogan, Gary Soto, Kim Blaeser, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Li-Young Lee, and Jimmy Santiago Baca, among others—this is an indispensable collection.

This groundbreaking anthology marks the emergence of social action writing as a distinct field within creative writing and literature. Featuring never-before-published pieces, as well as reprinted material, Fire and Ink is divided into ten sections focused on significant social issues, including identity, sexuality and gender, the environment, social justice, work, war, and peace. The pieces can often be gripping, such as “Frame,” in which Adrienne Rich confronts government and police brutality, or Chris Abani’s “Ode to Joy,” which documents great courage in the face of mortal danger.

Fire and Ink serves as a wonderful reader for a wide range of courses, from composition and rhetoric classes to courses in ethnic studies, gender studies, American studies, and even political science, by facing a past that was often accompanied by injustice and suffering. But beyond that, this collection teaches us that we all have the power to create a more equitable and just future.

Poet FRANCES PAYNE ADLER is a professor and founder of the Creative Writing and Social Action Program at California State University, Monterey Bay. She is the author of five books, including The Making of a Matriot, and is nationally recognized for her collaborative social action art exhibitions. Fiction writer DEBRA BUSMAN, a long-time activist and community organizer, and poet DIANA GARCÍA, a founding member of the Border Voices Project, are both professors and co-directors of the Creative Writing and Social Action Program, California State University, Monterey Bay. García is also the author of the American Book Award–winning poetry collection When Living Was a Labor Camp, published by the University of Arizona Press.

“Fire & Ink is a monumental anthology that will inspire students and activists for generations to come. It’s all here: art, passion, outrage, beauty, and the thirst for justice. It’s the book we’ve been waiting for.” —Matthew Rothschild, editor and publisher of The Progressive magazine

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“Always within you is that day your spirit came to us. When rains came in from the Pacific to bless. Clouds peered over the mountains in response to the singing of medicine plants, who danced back and forth in shawls of mist.”

Transformative moments in the cycle of life are a time for acknowledgment, a chance to guide a child’s path in a positive and loving direction. Swirling images laden with both myth and personal meaning illustrate this unique, poetic tale of the joys and lessons of a girl’s journey through birth, youth, and finally adulthood. Within these colorful pages, family and community come together in celebration of her arrival, offering praise, love, and advice to help carry her forward through the many milestones to come, and reminding her always of how deeply she is cherished. It is a reminder, too, of our abiding connections to the natural world, and the cyclical nature of life as a whole.

With its rich, symbolic artwork and captivating language, For a Girl Becoming is the perfect gift to recognize a birth, graduation, or any other significant moment in a young woman’s life. Not only for children, this lively and touching story speaks to that part in each of us who still stands at the door of becoming.

JOY HARJO (Mvskoke/Creek) is an internationally known poet, writer, and musician. She has published seven books of poetry and the children’s book The Good Luck Cat. With a style characterized by vivid color and large pastel figures, MERCEDES MCDONALD has done work for a variety of commercial clients as well as the children’s book Hello Night/Hola Noche by Amy Costales.
“This is a blessing to bestow on all of the young women in our lives. With Joy Harjo’s words, ‘As you travel with us,’ the road opens, and the journey promises to be lined with help—and love.” —Debra Frasier, author and illustrator of On the Day You Were Born
Faith Run
RAY GONZALEZ

Verse exploring the windswept Southwest

Faith Run offers the most recent work by the well-known poet Ray Gonzalez. The poetry here is—at once—perhaps his most personal and most universal. At the heart of these lyrical, sometimes ethereal, poems is a deep sense of the mystery and even the divinity of our human lives. Although Gonzalez invokes the names of many poets who have come before him, including Walt Whitman, Pablo Neruda, Robert Frost, Charles Wright, Allen Ginsberg, and Federico García Lorca, he writes in his own singular voice, one sculpted by the scorched and windblown landscapes of the American Southwest, by the complications of life in a borderland, by the voices of ancestors. With the confident touch of a master craftsman, he creates a new world out of the world we think we know. In his poems, the personal suddenly becomes the cosmic, the mundane unexpectedly becomes the sublime.

For Gonzalez, it seems, we humans can transcend the ordinary—just as these poems transcend genre and create a poetic realm of their own—but we never actually leave behind our rooted, earthbound lives. Although our landscape may be invisible to us, we never escape its powerful magnetism. Nor do we ever abandon our ancestors. No matter how fast or far we run, we can never outrun them. Like gravity, their influence is inexorable.

These poems enchant with their language, which often leaps unexpectedly from worldly to otherworldly in the same stanza, but they cling and linger in our memories—not unlike the voices of friends and relatives.

RAY GONZALEZ is a professor in the creative writing program at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of numerous books, including two books of fiction, three collections of essays, a memoir, and ten previous books of poetry. Many of his books have been published by the University of Arizona Press, including The Ghost of John Wayne and Other Stories, The Underground Heart, and Turtle Pictures.

“These stunning poems are profound meditations, urgent and authentic. They contain the minutest of details on big subjects whose weight marks Gonzalez’s graceful and radiant lines. This kind of poetry is tender, haunting, and transformative.”
—Denise Duhamel, author of Ka-Ching!

“Few poets can sing as far and deep as Ray Gonzalez. His odes and meditations are in conversation with a wide range of poets (the likes of Elizabeth Bishop, Li-Young Lee, and Allen Ginsberg) and with the men and women of his life. Here, as in his previous books, he has written a boundless, generous poetry that speaks to and for all of us.”
—Terrance Hayes, author of Wind in a Box

“In his moving poem ‘Not Today,’ Ray Gonzalez writes: ‘When the artifacts of memory / disintegrated into nothing, / you were simply the signature in / fading ink.’ Gonzalez’s true signature is found in his poems that live on in the ‘territories in the mind.’ Faith Run is an extraordinary book of poems.”
—Juan Delgado, author of A Rush of Hands
Odalisque in Pieces
CARMEN GIMÉNEZ SMITH

A poetic deconstruction of feminine identity

In her debut poetry collection, Carmen Giménez Smith illuminates Latina identity in the prismatic light of postcolonial history, feminism, myth, and the fragmentation of modernity. From these disparate elements she fashions a female persona—“clairvoyant with great shoes”—who is both bracingly modern and movingly vulnerable. Through her poems we traverse the landscape of a woman’s life (girl, mother, lover), navigating a terrain tinted with mythology and relic yet still fresh and uncharted. The poems revolve around issues of identity—and the ways in which identity is both inherited and constructed/reconstructed. Or, as one poem puts it, “The planet floating backwards / whirling some of us older than the stars, some of us nascent and bare.” Although she employs techniques of avant-garde poetry, Giménez Smith shades and deepens the New World landscape into a territory of rare lyric intensity and energy. Humorous, sly, sexy, sophisticated, these poems are animated by passion and hard-won knowledge.

In these poems we encounter such strange beauties as a girl assembling and disassembling, a moth trapped in a glass of water, new-age fairy godmothers, and a lark who sings for the milkman. Yet we are also made aware of how these beauties reflect the speaker’s troubles—her effort to employ, in the words of one of her most memorable poems, “Only the invisible post where she writes the encounters / with air’s lusters. Only the imagined hour / with which she’s made a fragile craft.”

Vivid and charged with an inner light, these are poems that linger and expand in the mind and memory.

CARMEN GIMÉNEZ SMITH is an assistant professor of creative writing at New Mexico State University. She is the publisher of Noemi Press and the editor-in-chief of the literary magazine Puerto del Sol.

“Carmen Giménez Smith arrives in the poetry world fully formed, and dazzling. Her work is strange, incantatory, but also full of story, innuendo, confession, praise. Although each line, each image, is original, memorable, and distinct, the accumulation of music and meaning that becomes the whole of this book is a great accomplishment. Odalisque in Pieces renews our sense of what a collection can do. This is a poet of mystery, power, and also ancient wisdom: ‘Moths are often still. / Give me a moth and a shred of black silk, / and I’ll show you history.’ Carmen Giménez Smith brings us news both of this world, and the one before it.” —Laura Kasirschke, author of Lilies Without

“Odalisque in Pieces pitches its tent on that fertile border where language means (often with an engaging inner logic of its own) or where the poem mostly ‘holds itself upon its sounds.’ Put another way: Giménez Smith is promiscuous when exploring the best our poetries make available to anyone fearless enough to move beyond their comfort zones. This work is ‘mumbled indecency of the sweetest kind.’” —Francisco Aragón, editor of The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry

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Havana and Other Missing Fathers

MIA LEONIN

A lyrical and powerful journey of discovery

Mia Leonin spent the first sixteen years of her life believing her father was dead. All she knew of the man came through stories told by her mother. At times he had been a surgeon, at others a psychiatrist. In truth, he had been a fantasy.

Shortly after her sixteenth birthday, Leonin learned from her mother that her father, a Cuban exile, was very much alive and living in Florida. Her attempts to contact him, however, were thwarted until four years later, when she left home in search of her roots.

She meets her father, but trying to discover the truth behind him proves to be a more daunting task. Her journey takes her to Miami, Colombia, and Cuba, and her search for cultural identity leads her to create memories, friendships, and romances. She finds moments of connection and redemption, ending up in Havana not as a cultural tourist but as an illegitimate daughter of Cuba looking for validation. What she discovers is an island bereft of fathers and brimming with paternalism. As she becomes entangled with two different men, she descends further into the Havana of poverty, humiliation, and despair, as well as the ever-inventive city that is as passionate as it is contradictory.

Insightful, imaginative, and often poetic, Havana and Other Missing Fathers is Mia Leonin’s recollection of this journey and her longing to learn more about her origins. In the end, she must learn to accept the answers she discovers as well as the questions that remain.

MIA LEONIN is a creative writing instructor at the University of Miami. She is the author of two books of poetry, Braid and Unraveling the Bed.

“Bold, sexy, utterly compelling, Mia Leonin’s search for her Cuban father is a richly rendered story of love for the language of the human heart.” — A. Manette Ansay, author of Vinegar Hill

“This is a marvelous book, a pure meditation on what it is to be searching for one’s father, bringing together two disparate worlds. This is a writer of ample gifts and talent, and to read her words, to read her enchanting book, is to fall in love with her characters. I haven’t read a book this good and riveting in a great long time. Bravo, Miss Leonin!” — Virgil Suárez, author of Spared Angola: Memories from a Cuban-American Childhood

“No es fácil, this business of learning to dance as a Cuban, one syllable at a time. But in Mia Leonin’s stirring memoir, it becomes a lyrical journey where from the absence of fathers and fatherlands, women write themselves into being.”

— Frances Negrón-Muntaner, editor of None of the Above: Puerto Ricans in the Global Era
A Doctor’s Legacy
A Memoir of Merlin K. DuVal
Founding Dean of Arizona’s First Medical School

As told to LINDA VALDEZ

It was 1964. The job was to turn a dusty field into a top-ranking medical school. There were no buildings, no faculty, and no funds. Merlin K. DuVal accepted the challenge and won strong support as he began building the University of Arizona’s first College of Medicine.

Starting his adult life as a model in New York in the 1940s DuVal climbed his way up to being appointed Assistant Secretary of Health during Nixon’s administration and finally being instrumental in the founding of the University of Arizona’s medical school. While DuVal was a public man with a long list of accomplishments, this is also a deeply personal account in which a high-powered doctor discovers that his children grew up without really knowing him.

A year before his death, Dr. DuVal worked with journalist Linda Valdez to tell his story, and the real delight of this book is reading along as this man of remarkable intellectual curiosity examines his own life, his profession, and our society.

For more than two decades, LINDA VALDEZ has been an opinion writer for the largest papers in Tucson and Phoenix, specializing in medical, education, justice, immigration, and other human rights issues.
With its clear skies and low humidity, the southwestern United States is an astronomer’s paradise where observatories like Kitt Peak have redefined the art of skywatching. The region is unique in its loose federation of like-minded research outposts and in the quantity and diversity of its observatories — places captured in this unique guidebook.

Douglas Isbell and Stephen Strom, both intimately involved in southwestern astronomy, have written a practical guide to the major observatories of the region for those eager to learn what modern telescopes are doing, to understand the role each of these often quirky places has played in advancing our understanding of the cosmos, and hopefully to visit and see the tools of the astronomer up close. For each observatory, the authors describe its history, highlights of its contributions to astronomy — with an emphasis on recent results — and information for visitors. Also included are wide-ranging interviews with astronomers closely associated with each site.

Observatories covered range from McDonald in Texas to Palomar in California, with significant outposts in between: Arizona’s Kitt Peak National Observatory southwest of Tucson, the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, and the Whipple Observatory outside Amado; and New Mexico’s Very Large Array near Socorro and Sacramento Peak close to Sunspot. In addition to describing these established institutions, they also take a look ahead to the most powerful ground-based telescope in the world just beginning to operate at full power on Mount Graham in Safford, Arizona.

With more than three dozen illustrations, the book is accessible to amateur astronomers, tourists, students, and teachers — anyone fascinated with the contributions that astronomy has made to deepening our understanding of humanity’s place in the universe, whether exploring the solar system from Lowell Observatory or studying the birth of stars using the army of giant radio telescopes at the Very Large Array. This book aims to inspire visits to these sites by illuminating the major scientific questions being pursued every clear night beneath the dark skies of the Southwest and the amazing machinery that makes these pursuits possible.

Douglas Isbell is the United States national contact for the International Year of Astronomy 2009 and a professional astronomy and space communicator. He has more than two decades of experience at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory and NASA. Stephen E. Strom is Astronomer Emeritus at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory. An accomplished photographer as well as an astronomer, Strom has provided photographs for three previous University of Arizona Press books: Secrets from the Center of the World, Sonoita Plain, and Tséyi’/Deep in the Rock.
Atlas of Coastal Ecosystems in the Western Gulf of California

Tracking Limestone Deposits on the Margin of a Young Sea

Edited by MARKES E. JOHNSON and JORGE LEDESMA-VÁZQUEZ

A lavishly illustrated reference

The Gulf of California is one of the most beautiful places in the world, but it is also important to earth and marine scientists who work far beyond the area. In text and an accompanying CD-ROM with stunning satellite images, this atlas captures the dynamics of natural cycles in the fertility of the Gulf of California that have been in near-continuous operation for more than five million years. The book is designed to answer key questions that link the health of coastal ecosystems with the region’s evolutionary history: What was the richness of “fossil” ecosystems in the Gulf of California? How has it changed over time? Which ecosystems are most amenable to conservation?

With an emphasis on the intricate workings of the Gulf, a team of scientists led by Markes E. Johnson and Jorge Ledesma-Vázquez explores how marine invertebrates such as corals and bivalves, as well as certain algae, contribute to the operation of a vast “organic engine” that acts as a significant carbon trap. The Atlas reveals that the role of these organisms in the ecology of the Gulf was greatly underestimated in the past. The organisms that live in these environments (or provide the sediments for beaches and dunes) are mass producers of calcium carbonate. Until now, no book has considered the centrality of calcium carbonate production as it functions today across multiple ecosystems and how it has evolved over time.

An important work of scholarship that also evokes the region’s natural splendor, the Atlas will be of interest to a wide range of scientists, including geologists, paleontologists, marine biologists, ecologists, and conservation biologists.

MARKES E. JOHNSON holds the Charles L. MacMillan Chair in Geology at Williams College. He is the author of Discovering the Geology of Baja California: Six Hikes on the Southern Gulf Coast, published by the University of Arizona Press. JORGE LEDESMA-VÁZQUEZ is Associate Dean of the Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), Ensenada, in Mexico.
Conservation of Shared Environments
Learning from the United States and Mexico
Edited by LAURA LÓPEZ-HOFFMAN, EMILY D. McGOVERN, ROBERT G. VARADY, and KARL W. FLESSA

Building a bridge between science and policy

As conservationists well know, political borders rarely coincide with natural ecological boundaries. International borders such as that between the United States and Mexico traverse numerous ecosystems and watersheds. Many species of animals, birds, and insects regularly migrate between habitats across international borders.

Conservation of Shared Environments collects works that take on the environmental issues along the U.S.–Mexico border. Covering topics as diverse as wildlife preservation, grassland ecology, water rights, indigenous peoples, and the ecological consequences of border security, the contributors to this volume offer not only scientific analysis but also insight on how to bridge the gaps between scientists, policy makers, and the public.

LAURA LÓPEZ-HOFFMAN is an assistant professor in the University of Arizona School of Natural Resources and an assistant research professor at the University of Arizona Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy. EMILY McGOVERN is a research analyst and editorial associate with the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona. She is a former editor of You Are Here: The Journal of Creative Geography and continues to serve on the journal’s advisory board. ROBERT VARADY is the director of environmental programs at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy. He is also a research professor of environmental policy at the Udall Center, research professor of arid lands studies, and adjunct professor of hydrology and water resources. KARL FLESSA is a professor of geosciences at the University of Arizona as well as a research associate at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Introducing a new series

THE EDGE: Environmental Science, Law, and Policy is a new series designed to feature both edited collections and monographs on major themes and topics related to the intersection of environmental science, law, and policy. These books will make a significant contribution to scholarship and be known for connecting knowledge to policy.

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“I Know It’s Dangerous”
Why Mexicans Risk Their Lives to Cross the Border
LYNNAIRE M. SHERIDAN

Humanizing the immigrant experience

Migration from Mexico to the United States has become an increasingly volatile topic. The news is filled with stories of deaths, protests, and amnesty debates. With the constant buzz about migration in the political, economic, and legal spheres, the migrants themselves easily become a de-humanized multitude. “I Know It’s Dangerous”: Why Mexicans Risk Their Lives to Cross the Border strives to put a human face on the issue of migration and effectively turns the statistics we hear so often into individuals with real lives, needs, and desires.

As an Australian national, Lynnaire Sheridan brings a refreshingly neutral voice to this hot-button topic. With data gathered over two years of living in Baja California, Mexico, Sheridan draws out individual stories, motivations, and conceptions of risk that ultimately allow us a deeper understanding of migration. Sheridan enriches the migrants’ stories with examinations of popular songs, graffiti art on the border, analyses of newspaper articles, and in-depth interviews with migrants. Together these narratives show us that risk has become a strong motivating factor for migrants and that stricter border policies have not necessarily stemmed the rates of migration; they have merely changed how people migrate.

Sheridan’s findings have broad implications for both those interested in migration from Mexico to the United States and international migration scholars. This book will appeal to a range of disciplines in the humanities, from anthropology and criminology to art and ethnic studies. It will also resonate among legal professionals, policy makers, and social workers.

While numerous books have focused on the act of migration and its ripples across both the United States and Mexico, this book is unique in its attention to migrants in Mexico and its ability to draw out their individual stories.

LYNNAIRE M. SHERIDAN undertook her doctoral studies on the unauthorized migration of Mexicans to the United States with the School of Management, University of Western Sydney. She is a socio-cultural researcher specializing in tourism impact management, and an adjunct senior lecturer with Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

“Sheridan’s work provides much fruitful insight on the human side of the immigration drama that will be of real interest to scholars dealing with Mexican migration. [She] covers a range of human situations that are compelling for understanding the human dimensions of Mexican migration to the United States.”
—Stephen P. Mumme, Colorado State University

“The use of qualitative methods yields important insight that we can’t get through social surveys. The use of popular culture to expand on her field research also yields interesting results.”
—Carlos E. Posadas, New Mexico State University

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Human Rights along the U.S.–Mexico Border

Gendered Violence and Insecurity

Edited by KATHLEEN STAUDENT, TONY PAYAN, and Z. ANTHONY KRUSZEWSKI

A new approach to the border security debate

Much political oratory has been devoted to safeguarding America’s boundary with Mexico, but policies that militarize the border and criminalize immigrants have overshadowed the region’s widespread violence against women, the increase in crossing deaths, and the lingering poverty that spurs people to set out on dangerous northward treks. This book addresses those concerns by focusing on gender-based violence, security, and human rights from the perspective of women who live with both violence and poverty.

From the Pacific to the Gulf of Mexico, scholars from both sides of the 2,000-mile border reflect expertise in disciplines ranging from international relations to criminal justice, conveying a more complex picture of the region than that presented in other studies.

Initial chapters offer an overview of routine sexual assaults on women migrants, the harassment of Central American immigrants at the hands of authorities and residents, corruption and counterfeiting along the border, and near-death experiences of border crossers. Subsequent chapters then connect analysis with solutions in the form of institutional change, social movement activism, policy reform, and the spread of international norms that respect human rights as well as good governance.

These chapters show how all facets of the border situation—globalization, NAFTA, economic inequality, organized crime, political corruption, rampant patriarchy—promote gendered violence and other expressions of hyper-masculinity. They also show that U.S. immigration policy exacerbates the problems of border violence—in marked contrast to the border policies of European countries.

By focusing on women’s everyday experiences in order to understand human security issues, these contributions offer broad-based alternative approaches and solutions that address everyday violence and inattention to public safety, inequalities, poverty, and human rights. And by presenting a social and democratic international feminist framework to address these issues, they offer the opportunity to transform today’s security debate in constructive ways.

KATHLEEN STAUDENT, TONY PAYAN, and Z. ANTHONY KRUSZEWSKI are respectively professor, associate professor, and professor of political science at the University of Texas–El Paso. Staudt is the author or editor of more than a dozen books, most recently Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear, and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juárez. Payan is the author of The Three U.S.–Mexico Border Wars: Drugs, Immigration, and Homeland Security. Kruszewski is co-editor of Chicanos and Native Americans: The Territorial Minorities.
Labor Market Issues along the U.S.–Mexico Border
Edited by MARIE T. MORA and ALBERTO DÁVILA

Examining economic disparities along the border

Five million workers are employed in a variety of settings along the U.S.–Mexico border, yet labor market outcomes on each side often differ. U.S. workers tend to have low earnings and high unemployment compared with the rest of the country, while workers on the Mexican side of the border are often more prosperous than those in the interior. This book sheds new light on these socioeconomic differentials, along with other labor market issues affecting both sides of the border.

The contributors take up issues that dominate the current discourse—migration, trade, gender, education, earnings, and employment. They analyze labor conditions and their relationship to immigration, and also provide insight into income levels and population concentrations, the relative prosperity of Mexico’s border region, and NAFTA’s impact on trade and living conditions.

Drawing on demographic, economic, and labor data, the chapters treat topics ranging from historical context to directions for future research. They cover the importance of trade to both the United States and Mexico, salary differentials, the determinants of wages among Mexican immigrant women on the U.S. side, and the net effect of Mexican migration on the public coffers in U.S. border states. The book’s concluding policy prescriptions are geared toward improving conditions on the U.S. side without dampening the success of workers in Mexico.

Written to be equally accessible to social scientists, policy makers, and concerned citizens, this book deals with issues often overlooked in national policy discussions and can help readers better understand real-life conditions along the border. It dispels misconceptions regarding labor interdependence between the two countries while offering policy recommendations useful for improving the economic and social well-being of border residents.

MARIE T. MORA is a professor of economics at the University of Texas–Pan American, where ALBERTO DÁVILA is also a professor of economics and holder of the V. F. “Doc” and Gertrude Neuhaus Chair for Entrepreneurship.

“This book deals with the subject of labor in a comprehensive way and presents an important contribution to the field of studies on labor issues along the U.S.–Mexico border.” —Tony Payan, author of Cops, Soldiers, and Diplomats: Explaining Agency Behavior in the War on Drugs

“This book broadens our understanding of border relations, economics, demographics, and society. Its authors deal with topics that are often overlooked in national policy, and the book is timely in understanding the major issues and real-life conditions along the U.S.–Mexico border.” —Refugio I. Rochin, University of California, Davis
When the Zoot Suit Riots ignited in Los Angeles in 1943, they quickly became headline news across the country. At their center was a series of attacks by U.S. Marines and sailors on young Mexican American men who dressed in distinctive suits and called themselves pachucos. The media of the day portrayed these youths as miscreants and hoodlums. Even though the outspoken First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, quickly labeled them victims of race riots, the initial portrayal has distorted images ever since. A surprising amount of scholarship has reinforced those images, writes Laura Cummings, proceeding from what she calls “the deviance school of thought.”

This innovative study examines the pachuco phenomenon in a new way. Exploring its growth in Tucson, Arizona, the book combines ethnography, history, and sociolinguistics to contextualize the early years of the phenomenon, its diverse cultural roots, and its language development in Tucson. Unlike other studies, it features first-person research with men and women who—despite a wide span of ages—self-identify as pachucos and pachucas. Through these interviews and her archival research, the author finds that pachuco culture has deep roots in Tucson and the Southwest. And she discovers the importance of the pachuco/caló language variety to a shared sense of pachuquismo. Further, she identifies previously neglected pachuco ties to indigenous Indian languages and cultures in Mexico and the United States.

Cummings stresses that the great majority of people conversant with the culture and language do not subscribe to the dynamics of contemporary hardcore gangs, but while zoot suits are no longer the rage today, the pachuco language and sensibilities do live on in Mexican American communities across the Southwest and throughout the United States.

Laura L. Cummings is a Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau. She is a former Associate Director of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of Arizona and is the author of The Life Story of a Villista.

“A strong critical understanding of the intersections of class, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.” —Rosália Solórzano, co-editor of Chicana/o Studies: Survey and Analysis
Badmen, Bandits, and Folk Heroes
The Ambivalence of Mexican American Identity in Literature and Film

JUAN J. ALONZO

Portrayals of Mexican men in film

Badmen, Bandits, and Folk Heroes is a comparative study of the literary and cinematic representation of Mexican American masculine identity from early twentieth-century adventure stories and movie Westerns through contemporary self-representations by Chicano/a writers and filmmakers. In this deeply compelling book, Juan J. Alonzo proposes a reconsideration of the early stereotypical depictions of Mexicans in fiction and film: rather than viewing stereotypes as unrelentingly negative, Alonzo presents them as part of a complex apparatus of identification and disavowal. Furthermore, Alonzo reassesses Chicano/a self-representation in literature and film, and argues that the Chicano/a expression of identity is characterized less by essentialism than by an acknowledgment of the contingent status of present-day identity formations.

Alonzo opens his provocative study with a fresh look at the adventure stories of Stephen Crane and the silent Western movies of D. W. Griffith. He also investigates the conflation of the greaser, the bandit, and the Mexican revolutionary into one villainous figure in early Western movies and, more broadly, traces the development of the badman in Westerns. He newly interrogates the writings of Américo Paredes regarding the makeup of Mexican masculinity, and productively trains his analytic eye on the recent films of Jim Mendiola and the contemporary poetry of Evangelina Vigil.

Throughout Badmen, Bandits, and Folk Heroes, Alonzo convincingly demonstrates how fiction and films that formerly appeared one-dimensional in their treatment of Mexicans and Mexican Americans actually offer surprisingly multifarious and ambivalent representations. At the same time, his valuation of indeterminacy, contingency, and hybridity in contemporary cultural production creates new possibilities for understanding identity formation.

JUAN J. ALONZO is an assistant professor of English at Texas A&M University.

“Alonzo’s conceptualization of stereotypes as a fluid category of identity formation is simply brilliant.” —Maria Herrera-Sobek, co-editor of Culture across Borders: Mexican Immigration and Popular Culture
Chicano Studies
The Genesis of a Discipline
MICHAEL SOLDATENKO

Revisiting the roots of the field

Chicano Studies is a comparatively new academic discipline. Unlike well-established fields of study that long ago codified their canons and curricula, the departments of Chicano Studies that exist today on U.S. college and university campuses are less than four decades old. In this edifying and frequently eye-opening book, a career member of the discipline examines its foundations and early years. Based on an extraordinary range of sources and cognizant of infighting and the importance of personalities, Chicano Studies is the first history of the discipline.

What are the assumptions, models, theories, and practices of the academic discipline now known as Chicano Studies? Like most scholars working in the field, Michael Soldatenko didn’t know the answers to these questions even though he had been teaching for many years. Intensely curious, he set out to find the answers, and this book is the result of his labors. Here readers will discover how the discipline came into existence in the late 1960s and how it matured during the next fifteen years—from an often confrontational protest of dissatisfied Chicana/o college students into a univocal scholarly voice (or so it appears to outsiders).

Part intellectual history, part social criticism, and part personal meditation, Chicano Studies attempts to make sense of the collision (and occasional wreckage) of politics, culture, scholarship, ideology, and philosophy that created a new academic discipline. Along the way, it identifies a remarkable cast of scholars and administrators who added considerable zest to the drama.

MICHAEL SOLDATENKO is the chair of the Department of Chicano Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. He is a contributor to many books, including The Chicana/o Cultural Studies Reader and Latino Los Angeles: Transformations, Communities, and Activism.

“Part intellectual history, part social criticism, and part personal meditation, this study traces the checkered history of the topic and produces an astute, sensitive, and often incisive analysis of the field’s emergence during the ferment of the Chicano movement.”
—David Gutiérrez, author of Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity

“This is a brilliant and original discussion of the ideas and major academic issues that created this field of study. There is nothing like this in its sweep and sophisticated analysis.”
—Richard Griswold del Castillo, author of Chicano San Diego: Cultural Space and the Struggle for Justice
Beginning near the end of the nineteenth century, a generation of reformers set their sights on the growing Mexican community in Los Angeles. Experimenting with a variety of policies on health, housing, education, and labor, these reformers—settlement workers, educationalists, Americanizers, government officials, and employers—attempted to transform the Mexican community with a variety of distinct and often competing agendas.

In Race, Place, and Reform in Mexican Los Angeles, Stephanie Lewthwaite presents evidence from a myriad of sources that these varied agendas of reform consistently supported the creation of racial, ethnic, and cultural differences across Los Angeles. Reformers simultaneously promoted acculturation and racialization, creating a “landscape of difference” that significantly shaped the place and status of Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans from the Progressive era through the New Deal.

The book journeys across the urban, suburban, and rural spaces of Greater Los Angeles as it moves through time and examines the rural–urban migration of Mexicans on both a local and a transnational scale. Part 1 traverses the world of Progressive reform in urban Los Angeles, exploring the link between the region’s territorial and industrial expansion, early campaigns for social and housing reform, and the emergence of a first-generation Mexican immigrant population. Part 2 documents the shift from official Americanization and assimilation toward nativism and exclusion. Here Lewthwaite examines competing cultures of reform and the challenges to assimilation from Mexican nationalists and American nativists. Part 3 analyzes reform during the New Deal, which spawned the active resistance of second-generation Mexican Americans.

Race, Place, and Reform in Mexican Los Angeles achieves a full, broad, and nuanced account of the various—and often contradictory—efforts to reform the Mexican population of Los Angeles. With a transnational approach grounded in historical context, this book will appeal to students of history, cultural studies, and literary studies.

STEYANIE LEWTHWAITE is a lecturer in American history at the University of Nottingham’s School of American and Canadian Studies.

“A number of books have chapters on the efforts to reform the Mexicans of Los Angeles. None, though, compare to this book in depth of understanding and knowledge of the reformers, change over time in the reform efforts, the nuances of their construction of Mexicans as a racial/ethnic type, and the varieties of the reformers’ specific programs.” —Douglas Monroy, author of The Borders Within: Encounters Between Mexico and the U.S.
Undermining Race
Ethnic Identities in Arizona Copper Camps, 1880–1920

PHYLIS CANCELLA MARTINELLI

Complicating notions of “whiteness”

Undermining Race rewrites the history of race, immigration, and labor in the copper industry in Arizona. The book focuses on the case of Italian immigrants in their relationships with Anglo, Mexican, and Spanish miners (and at times with blacks, Asian Americans, and Native Americans), requiring a reinterpretation of the way race was formed and figured across place and time.

Phylis Martinelli argues that the case of Italians in Arizona provides insight into “in between” racial and ethnic categories, demonstrating that the categorizing of Italians varied from camp to camp depending on local conditions—such as management practices in structuring labor markets and workers’ housing, and the choices made by immigrants in forming communities of language and mutual support. Italians—even light-skinned northern Italians—were not considered completely “white” in Arizona at this historical moment, yet neither were they consistently racialized as non-white, and tactics used to control them ranged from micro to macro level violence.

To make her argument, Martinelli looks closely at two “white camps” in Globe and Bisbee and at the Mexican camp of Clifton-Morenci. Comparing and contrasting the placement of Italians in these three camps shows how the usual binary system of race relations became complicated, which in turn affected the existing race-based labor hierarchy, especially during strikes. The book provides additional case studies to argue that the biracial stratification system in the United States was in fact triracial at times. According to Martinelli, this system determined the nature of the associations among laborers as well as the way Americans came to construct “whiteness.”

PHYLIS CANCELLA MARTINELLI is a professor of sociology at St. Mary’s College of California. She co-edited the book Mexican American Identity and contributed to the books Italian Immigrants Go West: The Impact of Locale on Ethnicity, California’s Social Problems, and Italian Americans: A Retrospective on the Twentieth Century.

“This book impressively retells the history of race, immigration, and labor in the copper industry. At a time when interracial unity among workers of color is among the most important issues facing U.S. labor and society, this study is especially apposite. A fine example of theoretically informed writing.” —David R. Roediger, author of Colored White: Transcending the Racial Past
New Deal Art in Arizona

BETSY FAHLMAN

Reclaiming a piece of Arizona history

Arizona’s art history is emblematic of the story of the modern West, and few periods in that history were more significant than the era of the New Deal. From Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams to painters and muralists including Native American Gerald Nailor, the artists working in Arizona under New Deal programs were a notable group whose art served a distinctly public purpose. Their photography, paintings, and sculptures remain significant exemplars of federal art patronage and offer telling lessons positioned at the intersection of community history and culture.

Art is a powerful instrument of historical record and cultural construction, and many of the issues captured by the Farm Security Administration photographers remain significant issues today: migratory labor, the economic volatility of the mining industry, tourism, and water usage. Art tells important stories, too, including the work of Japanese American photographer Toyo Miyatake in Arizona’s internment camps, murals by Native American artist Gerald Nailor for the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, and African American themes at Fort Huachuca. Illustrated with 100 black-and-white photographs and covering a wide range of both media and themes, this fascinating and accessible volume reclaims a richly textured story of Arizona history with potent lessons for today.

BETSY FAHLMAN is a professor of art history at Arizona State University. She is the author of The Cowboy’s Dream: The Mythic Life of Lon Megargee.

“At the heart of this book are the illustrations and the careful attention to visual analysis and context that Fahlman devotes to them. Clearly organized and well written, it is also highly accessible to a general reader.” —Carol Clark, Amherst College
In recent years, archaeologists and Native American communities have struggled to find common ground even though more than a century ago a man of Seneca descent raised on New York’s Cattaraugus Reservation, Arthur C. Parker, joined the ranks of professional archaeology. Until now, Parker’s life and legacy as the first Native American archaeologist have been neither closely studied nor widely recognized. At a time when heated debates about the control of Native American heritage have come to dominate archaeology, Parker’s experiences form a singular lens to view the field’s tangled history and current predicaments with Indigenous peoples.

In Inheriting the Past, Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh examines Parker’s winding career path and asks why it has taken generations for Native peoples to follow in his footsteps. Closely tracing Parker’s life through extensive archival research, Colwell-Chanthaphonh explores how Parker crafted a professional identity and negotiated dilemmas arising from questions of privilege, ownership, authorship, and public participation. How Parker, as well as the discipline more broadly, chose to address the conflict between Native American rights and the pursuit of scientific discovery ultimately helped form archaeology’s moral community.

Parker’s rise in archaeology just as the field was taking shape demonstrates that Native Americans could have found a place in the scholarly pursuit of the past years ago and altered its trajectory. Instead, it has taken more than a century to articulate the promise of an Indigenous archaeology—an archaeological practice carried out by, for, and with Native peoples. As the current generation of researchers explores new possibilities of inclusiveness, Parker’s struggles and successes serve as a singular reference point to reflect on archaeology’s history and its future.

Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh is the curator of anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. He is the author of Massacre at Camp Grant: Forgetting and Remembering Apache History, and co-author of History Is in the Land: Multivocal Tribal Traditions in Arizona’s San Pedro Valley both published by the University of Arizona Press.

“Colwell-Chanthaphonh is a gifted storyteller and a tremendous writer. The book is well written and will be read as a means of using Parker’s life as a metaphor for the growth and development of indigenous archaeology.” —Joe Watkins, author of Indigenous Archaeology: American Indian Values and Scientific Practice

“The author has done a remarkable job of firsthand trailblazing scholarship. This book speaks volumes about the unknown history of emerging American archaeology and its relation to those it studies. This is an extraordinary book.” —David Hurst Thomas, author of Exploring Native North America
Stealing the Gila
The Pima Agricultural Economy and Water Deprivation, 1848–1921
DAVID H. DEJONG

The economics and politics of Native water

By 1850 the Pima Indians of central Arizona had developed a strong and sustainable agricultural economy based on irrigation. As David H. DeJong demonstrates, the Pima were an economic force in the mid-nineteenth-century middle Gila River valley, producing food and fiber crops for western military expeditions and immigrants. Moreover, crops from their fields provided an additional source of food for the Mexican military presidio in Tucson, as well as the U.S. mining districts centered near Prescott. For a brief period of about three decades, the Pima were on an equal economic footing with their non-Indian neighbors.

This economic vitality did not last, however. As immigrants settled upstream from the Pima villages, they deprived the Indians of the water they needed to sustain their economy. DeJong traces federal, territorial, and state policies that ignored Pima water rights even though some policies appeared to encourage Indian agriculture. This is a particularly egregious example of a common story in the West: the flagrant local rejection of Supreme Court rulings that protected Indian water rights. With plentiful maps, tables, and illustrations, DeJong demonstrates that maintaining the spreading farms and growing towns of the increasingly white population led Congress and other government agencies to willfully deny Pimas their water rights.

Had their rights been protected, DeJong argues, Pimas would have had an economy rivaling the local and national economies of the time. Instead of succeeding, the Pima were reduced to cycles of poverty, their lives destroyed by greed and disrespect for the law, as well as legal decisions made for personal gain.

DAVID H. DEJONG holds MA and PhD degrees in American Indian Policy Studies from the University of Arizona. Having written dozens of articles and two books dealing with federal Indian policy, DeJong is currently Project Manager of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project, a construction project funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and designed to deliver water—from the Central Arizona Project, the Gila River, and other settlements—to the Gila River Indian Reservation.

“This book is a major contribution to the historical scholarship on Indian agriculture and water rights, as well as the settlement and development of the Southwest. It tells an important story of greed and disrespect for law, as well as legal justifications for personal gain and the decimation of an Indian people’s way of life.”
—R. Douglas Hurt, author of Problems of Plenty: The American Farmer in the Twentieth Century
Woven together in Donna Deyhle’s ethnohistory are three generations and twenty-five years of friendship, interviews, and rich experience with Navajo women. Through a skillful blending of sources, Deyhle illuminates the devastating cultural consequences of racial stereotyping in the context of education. Longstanding racial tension in southeastern Utah frames this cross-generational set of portraits that together depict all aspects of this specifically American Indian struggle. Deyhle cites the lefthanded compliment, “Navajos work well with their hands,” which she indicates represents the limiting and all-too-common appraisal of American Indian learning potential that she vehemently disputes and seeks to disprove.

As a recognized authority on the subject, qualified by multiple degrees in racial and American Indian studies, Deyhle is able to chronicle the lives and “survivance” of three Navajo women in a way that is simultaneously ethnographic and moving. Her critique of the U.S. education system’s underlying yet very real tendency toward structural discrimination takes shape in elegant prose that moves freely into and out of time and place. The combination of substantive sources and touching personal experience forms a profound and enduring narrative of critical and current importance.

While this book stands as a powerful contribution to American Indian studies, its compelling human elements will extend its appeal to anyone concerned with the ongoing plight of American Indians in the education system.

DONNA DEYHLE is a professor in the Department of Education, Culture and Society and is the coordinator of the American Indian Studies Program in the Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Utah.
Native American Performance and Representation
Edited by S. E. WILMER

Performance as an expression of culture

Native performance is a multifaceted and changing art form as well as a swiftly growing field of research. Native American Performance and Representation provides a wider and more comprehensive study of Native performance, not only its past but also its present and future. Contributors use multiple perspectives to look at the varying nature of Native performance strategies. They consider the combination and balance of the traditional and modern techniques of performers in a multicultural world. This collection presents diverse viewpoints from both 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 examines Native performance using a variety of lenses, such as feminism, literary and film theory, and postcolonial discourse. Through the many unique voices of the contributors, major themes are explored, such as indigenous self-representations in performance, representations by non-indigenous people, cultural authenticity in performance and representation, and cross-fertilization between cultures. Authors introduce important, though sometimes controversial, issues as they consider the effects of miscegenation on traditional customs, racial discrimination, Native women's position in a multicultural society, and the relationship between authenticity and hybridity in Native performance.

An important addition to the new and growing field of Native performance, Wilmer's book cuts across disciplines and areas of study in a way no other book in the field does. It will appeal not only to those interested in Native American studies but also to those concerned with women's and gender studies, literary and film studies, and cultural studies.

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 Staging American Identities: Theatre, Society, and the Nation. His plays have been produced in venues around the world, including New York's Lincoln Center.

“Wilmer’s book gives performance students and scholars a much-needed resource: a text that examines an array of performance traditions from an array of perspectives, initiating a dialogue across the disciplines of theater, music, dance, and visual art on the presentations and representations of and by indigenous peoples.” —Ann Haugo, co-editor of Querying Difference in Theatre History

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**The Dialogue of Earth and Sky**

**Dreams, Souls, Curing, and the Modern Aztec Underworld**

**TIMOTHY J. KNAB**

In Mexico’s Sierra Norte de Puebla, beliefs that were held before the coming of Europeans continue to guide the lives of modern Aztecs. Anthropologist Knab learned the prayers and techniques for curing maladies of the human soul, and from his long association with these people has constructed a thorough account of their ancient beliefs and practices. This book is an important record of a culture that has maintained a precolumbian cosmovision for nearly 500 years, revealing that this system is as resonant today with the ethos of Mesoamerican peoples as it was for their ancestors.

“Timothy Knab knows the place and people better than any non-Nahuat, and his profound knowledge shows.” – Jill Leslie McKeever Furst, author of *The Natural History of the Soul in Ancient Mexico*

“A unique, resourceful, and personal ethnographic case study which details a belief system that considers itself much older than the crossing of Western philosophy to the Americas.” — *Latin American Research Review*

**TIMOTHY J. KNAB** is the co-author, with Thelma D. Sullivan, of *A Scattering of Jades: Stories, Poems, and Prayers of the Aztecs*, also published by the University of Arizona Press.

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**Mining, the Environment, and Indigenous Development Conflicts**

**SALEEM H. ALI**

Examines environmental conflicts between mining companies and indigenous communities and offers a comparative study of the factors leading to those conflicts. Ali presents four cases from the United States and Canada that exemplify different historical relationships with government and industry and provide an instance of high and low levels of Native resistance in each country. Through these cases, Ali analyzes why and under what circumstances tribes agree to negotiated mining agreements on their lands, and why some negotiations are successful and others not.

“It is refreshing to find a strong work grounded in social science theory that is also engaging for casual readers.” — *Montana, the Magazine of Western History*

“An important contribution to our understanding of the factors influencing decision making among these groups in both nations.” — Ken Pepion, Harvard University Native American Studies Program

**SALEEM H. ALI** is an associate professor of environmental studies at the University of Vermont and Research Scholar at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University.

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The Legacy of Hurricane Mitch
Lessons from Post-Disaster Reconstruction in Honduras
Edited by MARISA O. ENSOR

The sociocultural aftermath of natural disaster

Around the world disaster vulnerability is on the rise. The incidence and intensity of disasters have increased in recent decades with lives being shattered and resources being destroyed across broad geographic regions each year.

As it swept across the Honduran landscape, the exceptional size, power and duration of Hurricane Mitch abruptly and brutally altered the already diminished economic, social, and environmental conditions of the population. In the aftermath of the disaster a group of seven socio-environmental scientists set out to investigate the root causes of the heightened vulnerability that characterized pre-Mitch Honduras, the impact of the catastrophe on the local society, and the subsequent recovery efforts. Edited by Marisa O. Ensor, this volume presents the findings of their investigation.

The Legacy of Hurricane Mitch offers a comprehensive analysis of the immediate and long-term consequences of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras. Based on longitudinal ethnographic fieldwork and environmental assessments, this volume illustrates the importance of adopting an approach to disaster research and practice that places “natural” trigger events within their political, cultural, and socio-economic contexts. The contributors make a compelling case against post-disaster recovery efforts that limit themselves to alleviating the symptoms, rather than confronting the root causes of the vulnerability that prefigured the disaster.

MARISA O. ENSOR is an assistant professor of anthropology at the American University in Cairo. She has researched and published on disaster-, conflict-, and development-induced displacement in Latin America, North Africa, Spain, and the United States.

“There are few works of such importance that detail the ongoing impacts of natural disaster events, let alone provide an assessment of country-wide impacts of a natural disaster. This book also provides a critical perspective on the failure of development strategies that proceed without consideration of potential vulnerabilities—both those created by development and those exacerbated by it. It also reveals the resilience of the poorest victims and provides lessons learned on adaptability and coping that force a re-examination of the very nature of resilience as defined by disaster response experts.” —Christopher Dyer
In December 2005, following a series of convulsive upheavals that saw the overthrow of two presidents in three years, Bolivian peasant leader Evo Morales became the first Indian president in South American history. Consequently, according to S. Sándor John, Bolivia symbolizes new shifts in Latin America, pushed by radical social movements of the poor, the dispossessed, and indigenous people once crossed off the maps of “official” history. But, as John explains, Bolivian radicalism has a distinctive genealogy that does not fit into ready-made patterns of the Latin American left.

According to its author, this book grew out of a desire to answer nagging questions about this unusual place. Why was Bolivia home to the most persistent and heroically combative labor movement in the Western Hemisphere? Why did this movement take root so deeply and so stubbornly? What does the distinctive radical tradition of Trotskyism in Bolivia tell us about the past fifty years there, and what about the explosive developments of more recent years? To answer these questions, John clearly and carefully pieces together a fragmented past to show a part of Latin American radical history that has been overlooked for far too long. Based on years of research in archives and extensive interviews with labor, peasant, and student activists—as well as Chaco War veterans and prominent political figures—the book brings together political, social, and cultural history, linking the origins of Bolivian radicalism to events unfolding today in the country that calls itself “the heart of South America.”

S. SÁNDOR JOHN is an adjunct assistant professor of Latin American, U.S., and labor history at the City University of New York.

“This is an impressive book that incorporates a significant amount of research, including both oral histories and archival documents. The result is a model of historical scholarship.”
—Marc Becker, co-editor of Highland Indians and the State in Modern Ecuador
Resistance and Survival
Children’s Narrative from Central America and the Caribbean
ANN GONZÁLEZ

Messages of empowerment in children’s literature

In her analysis of some of the most interesting and important children’s literature from Central America and the Caribbean, Ann González uses postcolonial narrative theory to expose and decode what marginalized peoples say when they tell stories to their children—and how the interpretations children give these stories today differ from the ways they have read them in the past. González reads against the grain, deconstructing and critiquing dominant discourses to reveal consistent narrative patterns throughout the region that have helped children maneuver in a world dominated by powerful figures—from parents to agents of social control, political repression, and global takeover.

Many of these stories are in some way lessons in resistance and survival in a world where “the toughest kid on the block,” often an outsider, demands that a group of children “play or pay,” on his terms. González demonstrates that where traditional strategies have proposed the model of the “trickster” or the “paradoxically astute fool,” to mock the pretensions of the would-be oppressor, new trends indicate that the region’s children—and those who write for them—show increasing interest in playing the game on their own terms, getting to know the Other, embracing difference, and redefining their identity and role within the new global culture.

Resistance and Survival emphasizes the hope underlying this contemporary children’s literature for a world in which all voices can be heard and valued—the hope of an authentic happy ending.

ANN GONZÁLEZ is Associate Chair of the Department of Languages and Culture Studies and a professor of Spanish and Latin American studies at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She co-edited a volume of the Dictionary of Literary Biography: Modern Latin-American Fiction Writers with William Luis. She is the author of a book on one of Costa Rica’s most famous novelists, Sí Pero No: Fabián Dobles and the Postcolonial Challenge.

“[This original scholarship should stimulate further academic research on children’s literature from Latin America. It is, in many ways, a groundbreaking work. González offers a new way to look at and read writings for children.” —Edward Waters Hood, author of La Ficción de Gabriel García Márquez: Repetición e intertextualidad

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The occult life of Things
Native Amazonian Theories of Materiality and Personhood
Edited by FERNANDO SANTOS-GRANERO

The agency of objects in Amazonian belief

Native peoples of the Amazon view objects, especially human artifacts, as the first cosmic creations and the building blocks from which the natural world has been shaped. In these constructional cosmologies, spears became the stings of wasps, hammocks became spiderwebs, stools became the buttocks of human beings.

A view so antithetical to Western thought offers a refreshing perspective on the place and role of objects in human social life—one that has remained under-studied in Amazonian anthropology. In this book, ten scholars re-introduce objects to contemporary studies of animism in order to explore how various peoples envision the lives of material objects: the occult, or extraordinary, lives of “things,” whose personas are normally not visible to lay people.

Combining linguistic, ethnological, and historical perspectives, the contributors draw on a wealth of information gathered from ten Amerindian peoples belonging to seven different linguistic families to identify the basic tenets of what might be called a native Amazonian theory of materiality and personhood. They consider which objects have subjective dimensions and how they are manifested, focusing on three domains regarding Amazonian conceptions of things: the subjective life of objects, considering which things have a subjective dimension; the social life of things, seeing the diverse ways in which human beings and things relate as subjectivities; and the historical life of things, recognizing the fact that some things have value as ritual objects or heirlooms.

These chapters demonstrate how native Amazonian peoples view animals, plants, and things as “subjectivities” possessing agency, intentionality, and consciousness, as well as a composite anatomy. They also show how materiality is intimately linked to notions of personhood, with artifacts classified as natural or divine creations and living beings viewed as cultural or constructed. The Occult Life of Things offers original insights into these elaborate native ontologies as it breaks new ground in Amazonian studies.

FERNANDO SANTOS-GRANERO is a staff scientist for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama and author of Vital Enemies: Slavery, Predation, and the Amerindian Political Economy of Life and The Power of Love: The Moral Use of Knowledge amongst the Amuesha of Central Peru.

“The essays in this collection are significant contributions, and as a whole the volume is an extremely important one for native Amazonian studies.” —Donald Pollock, State University of New York, Buffalo
Anthropologies of Guayana
Cultural Spaces in Northeastern Amazonia

Edited by NEIL L. WHITEHEAD and STEPHANIE W. ALEMÁN

An authoritative and indispensable reference

Unlike better-known regions of the Amazon, Guayana—a broad cultural region that includes the countries of Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana, as well as parts of eastern Venezuela and northern Brazil—has rarely been integrated into the broader narratives of South American anthropology and history. Nevertheless, Guayana provides a unique historical context for the persistence and survival of native peoples distinct from the histories reflected by the intense colonial competition in the region over the past 500 years.

This is an important collection that brings together the work of scholars from North America, South America, and Europe to reveal the anthropological significance of Guayana, the ancient realm of El Dorado and still the scene of gold and diamond mining. Beginning with the earliest civilizations of the region, the chapters focus on the historical ecology of the rain forest and the archaeological record up to the sixteenth century, as well as ethnography, ethnology, and perceptions of space. The book features extensive discussions of the history of a range of indigenous groups, such as the Waiwai, Trio, Wajápi, and Palikur. Contributions analyze the emergence of a postcolonial national society, the contrasts between the coastlands and upland regions, and the significance of race and violence in contemporary politics.

A noteworthy study of the prehistory and history of the region, the book also provides a useful survey of the current issues facing northeastern Amazonia. The chapters extend the anthropological agenda beyond the conventional focus on the “indigenous” even as contributors describe how Guayanese languages, mythologies, and social structures have remained resilient in the face of intense outside pressures.

NEIL L. WHITEHEAD is a professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is the author of Dark Shamans: Kanaimà and the Poetics of Violent Death. STEPHANIE W. ALEMÁN is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point.

“The authors of this volume develop new theoretical tools by which to better understand Guayana on its own terms. The book also shows that careful ethnographic analysis of Guayana helps us to better understand the complexity of the larger Amazonian system.”
—Michael Uzendoski, author of The Napo Runa of Amazonian Ecuador
Foods of Association
Biocultural Perspectives on Foods and Beverages that Mediate Sociability

NINA L. ETKIN

Exploring “social foods” through human history

“We should look for someone to eat and drink with before looking for something to eat and drink.” — Epicurus

This fascinating book examines the biology and culture of foods and beverages that are consumed in communal settings, with special attention to their health implications. Nina Etkin covers a wealth of topics, exploring human evolutionary history, the Slow Food movement, ritual and ceremonial foods, caffeinated beverages, spices, the street foods of Hawaii and northern Nigeria, and even bottled water. Her work is framed by a biocultural perspective that considers both the physiological implications of consumption and the cultural construction and circulation of foods. For Etkin, the foods and beverages we consume are simultaneously “biodynamic substances and cultural objects.”

The book begins with a look at the social eating habits of our primate relatives and discusses our evolutionary adaptations. It then offers a history of social foods in the era of European expansion, with a focus on spices and “caffeinated cordials.” (Of course, there were some powerful physiological consequences of eating foods brought home by returning explorers, and those are considered too—along with consequences for native peoples.) From there, the book describes “street food,” which is always served in communal settings. Etkin then scrutinizes ceremonial foods and beverages, and considers their pharmacological effects as well. Her extensive examination concludes by assessing the biological and cultural implications of bottled water.

While intended primarily for scholars, this enticing book serves up a tantalizing smorgasbord of food for thought.

NINA L. ETKIN was a professor of anthropology and graduate chair in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa until her death in 2009. She was one of the two recipients of the 2009 Distinguished Economic Botanist Award from the Society for Economic Botany, and she was awarded the prestigious Hawaii Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Research. Etkin was the author of Edible Medicines: An Ethnopharmacology of Food and editor of Eating on the Wild Side: The Pharmacologic, Ecologic, and Social Implications of Using Noncultigens.

“This book is fascinating, and anything by Dr. Etkin is always both authoritative and very well written.” — Eugene Anderson, author of Animals and the Maya in Southeast Mexico

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Polities and Power
Archaeological Perspectives on the Landscapes of Early States
Edited by STEVEN E. FALCONER and CHARLES L. REDMAN

Case studies in landscape archaeology

This distinctive book is the first to address the topic of landscape archaeology in early states from a truly global perspective. It provides an excellent introduction to—and overview of—the discipline today. The volume grew out of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of the Complex Societies Group, whose theme, States and the Landscape, paid tribute to the work of Robert McC. Adams. When Adams began publishing in the 1960s, the interdependence of cities and their countrysides, and the information revealed through the spatial patterning of communities, went largely unrecognized. Today, as this useful collection makes clear, these interpretive insights are fundamental to all archaeologists who investigate the roles of complex polities in their landscapes.

Polities and Power features detailed studies from an intentionally disparate array of regions, including Mesoamerica, Andean South America, southwestern Asia, East Africa, and the Indian subcontinent. Each chapter or pair of chapters is followed by a critical commentary. In concert, these studies strive to infer social, political, and economic meaning from archaeologically discerned landscapes associated with societies that incorporate some expression of state authority. The contributions engage a variety of themes, including the significance of landscapes as they condition and reflect complex polities; the interplay of natural and cultural elements in defining landscapes of state; archaeological landscapes as ever-dynamic entities; and archaeological landscapes as recursive structures, reflected in palimpsests of human activity.

Individually, many of these contributions are provocative, even controversial. Taken together, they reveal the contours of landscape archaeology at this particular evolutionary moment.

STEVEN E. FALCONER is a professor of archaeology in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. CHARLES L. REDMAN is the director of the School of Sustainability and the Virginia M. Ullman Professor of Natural History and the Environment at Arizona State University. He is also the author of Human Impact on Ancient Environments, also published by the University of Arizona Press.

“The explicit attention to several significant emerging themes in the study of archaeological landscapes makes this volume timely and indicative of the future direction of such studies.” —Jason Ur, Harvard University
The Archaeology of Environmental Change
Socionatural Legacies of Degradation and Resilience
Edited by CHRISTOPHER T. FISHER, J. BRETT HILL, and GARY M. FEINMAN

Environmental lessons from the past

Water management, soil conservation, sustainable animal husbandry . . . because such socio-environmental challenges have been faced throughout history, lessons from the past can often inform modern policy. In this book, case studies from a wide range of times and places reveal how archaeology can contribute to a better understanding of humans’ relation to the environment.

The Archaeology of Environmental Change shows that the challenges facing humanity today, in terms of causing and reacting to environmental change, can be better approached through an attempt to understand how societies in the past dealt with similar circumstances. The contributors draw on archaeological research in multiple regions—North America, Mesoamerica, Europe, the Near East, and Africa—from time periods spanning the Holocene, and from environments ranging from tropical forest to desert.

Through such examples as environmental degradation in Transjordan, wildlife management in East Africa, and soil conservation among the ancient Maya, they demonstrate the negative effects humans have had on their environments and how societies in the past dealt with these same problems. All call into question and ultimately refute popular notions of a simple cause-and-effect relationship between people and their environment, and reject the notion of people as either hapless victims of unstoppable forces or inevitable destroyers of natural harmony.

These contributions show that by examining long-term trajectories of socio-natural relationships we can better define concepts such as sustainability, land degradation, and conservation—and that gaining a more accurate and complete understanding of these connections is essential for evaluating current theories and models of environmental degradation and conservation. Their insights demonstrate that to understand the present environment and to manage landscapes for the future, we must consider the historical record of the total sweep of anthropogenic environmental change.

CHRISTOPHER T. FISHER is an associate professor of anthropology at Colorado State University and co-editor of Seeking a Richer Harvest: The Archaeology of Subsistence Intensification, Innovation, and Change.

J. BRETT HILL is an assistant professor of anthropology at Hendrix College and the author of Human Ecology in the Wadi al-Hasa: Land Use and Abandonment through the Holocene, also published by the University of Arizona Press.

GARY M. FEINMAN is the curator of Mesoamerican anthropology at the Field Museum and is the author or editor of more than a dozen books, most recently Images of the Past, 5th edition, coauthored with T. Douglas Price.
Warfare in Cultural Context
Practice, Agency, and the Archaeology of Violence

Edited by AXEL E. NIELSEN and WILLIAM H. WALKER

War as a complex cultural phenomenon

Warfare is a constant in human history. According to the contributors to this volume, archaeologists have assumed that—within certain socio-environmental parameters—war is always essentially the same phenomenon and follows a common logic, breaking out under similar conditions and having analogous effects on the people involved. In pursuit of this idea, archaeologists have built models to account for the occurrence of war in various times and places. The models are then tested against prehistoric evidence to make the causes and conduct of war predictable and data-based.

However, contributors argue, this model-and-evidence approach has given rise to multiple competing hypotheses and ambiguity rather than to full, coherent explanations of what turns out to be surprisingly complex acts of war. The chapters in Warfare in Cultural Context contend that agency and culture, inherited values and dispositions (such as religion and other cultural practices), beliefs, and institutions are always woven into the conduct of war.

This revealing book focuses on the ways that specific people construed their interests and life projects, and their problems and possibilities, and consequently chose among alternative courses of action. Using archaeological and ethnohistorical data from various parts of the world, the contributors explore the multiple avenues for the cultural study of warfare that these ideas make possible. Contributions focus on cultural aspects of warfare in Mesoamerica, South America, North America, and Southeast Asia. Case studies include warfare among the Maya, Inca, southwestern Pueblos, Mississippian cultures, and the Enga of Papua New Guinea.

AXEL E. NIELSEN is an assistant professor at the Universidad de Córdoba in Argentina. WILLIAM H. WALKER is an associate professor of anthropology at New Mexico State University.

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Toward a Behavioral Ecology of Lithic Technology
Cases from Paleoindian Archaeology
TODD A. SUROVELL

Mathematical modeling of human tool use

Modern humans and their hominid ancestors relied on chipped-stone technology for well over two million years and colonized more than 99 percent of the Earth’s habitable landmass in doing so. Yet there currently exist only a handful of informal models derived from ethnographic observation, experiments, engineering, and “common sense” to explain variability in archaeological lithic assemblages.

Because the fundamental processes of making, using, and discarding stone tools are, at root, exercises in problem solving, Todd Surovell asks what conditions favor certain technological solutions. Whether asking if a biface should be made thick or thin or if a flake should be saved or discarded, Surovell seeks answers that extend beyond a case-by-case analysis. One avenue for addressing these questions theoretically is formal mathematical modeling.

Here Surovell constructs a series of models designed to link environmental variability to human decision making as it pertains to lithic technology. To test the models, Surovell uses data from the analysis of more than 40,000 artifacts from five Rocky Mountain and northern Plains Folsom and Goshen complex archaeological sites dating to the Younger Dryas stadial (ca. 12,600–11,500 years BP). The primary result is the production of powerful new analytical tools useful to the interpretation of archaeological assemblages.

Surovell’s goal is to promote modeling and explore the general issues governing technological decisions. In this light, his models can be applied to any context in which stone tools are made and used.

TODD SUROVELL is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Wyoming. His research interests are in behavioral ecology, hunter-gatherer studies, mathematical modeling, lithic technology, and Paleoindian archaeology.

“Surovell develops and applies models derived from behavioral ecology to the acquisition and use of lithic raw materials. The result is the production of powerful new analytical tools useful for the interpretation of archaeological assemblages.” —David G. Anderson, author and co-editor of Climate Change and Cultural Dynamics: A Global Perspective on Mid-Holocene Transitions

“This book uses formal mathematical models to gain insight into the lithic technology of Paleoindians. He offers compelling interpretations of residential mobility derived from elegant, testable models.” —Bradley Lepper, author of Ohio Archaeology: An Illustrated Chronicle of Ohio’s Ancient American Indian Cultures
Animas–La Plata Project, Volume XII
Ridges Basin Excavations: The Sacred Ridge Site
JASON P. CHUIPKA

The latest volume on the Animas–La Plata site

This volume of the Animas–La Plata series (SWCA Anthropological Research Paper No. 10) describes the results of excavations at the largest and most complex site in the Animas–La Plata project area, the Sacred Ridge site (5LP245). Located in Ridges Basin approximately 8 km (4.8 miles) southwest of Durango, Colorado, Sacred Ridge was a multiple habitation site containing 22 pit structures and dating to the early Pueblo I period (A.D. 750–850). The volume concludes with a discussion of chronology, architecture, material culture, population, subsistence, and settlement at the site and in comparison with nearby sites.

JASON P. CHUIPKA is an archaeologist with Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, Inc. He is the co-author of Animas–La Plata Project: Blue Mesa Excavations, volume III of the Animas–La Plata series.
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