

assortment of scholars concerned about changes in the world of technology, work and capital accumulation. Even political economists, who often shy away from discourse analysis, will learn much about the wider social forces that buttress changes to informational capitalism.

Latino Lives in America: Making it Home, by Luis Ricardo Fraga, John A. Garcia, Rodney E. Hero, Michael Jones-Correa, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, and Gary M. Segura. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2010. 212pp. \$26.95 paper. ISBN: 9781439900499.

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Latino Lives in America is a timely overview of the contemporary state of economic, sociocultural, and political incorporation among "Hispanic/Latinos" in the United States. Based on original data collected by the authors between 2003 and 2006, this book updates our existing knowledge in the field, which has been largely based on data collected in the 1989 Latino National Political Survey (LNPS). As Luis Fraga and his colleagues point out, critical changes that have taken place since 1990—including Latinos' demographic growth and increasing national origin diversity, their geographic dispersion across the country, and their rising visibility within American politics—have great potential to reshape many dimensions of Latino life in the twenty-first century.

The main strength of this book lies in its impressive empirical data. On one hand, it draws from a large survey of representative samples of Latino households taken from 15 states and the District of Columbia in 2005–2006. This 2006 Latino National Survey (LNS) includes N = 8,634 self-identified Hispanic/Latino residents of areas of the United States where approximately 87.5 percent of Hispanics/Latinos now live, and each state sample can be analyzed alone as well as in comparison to other state samples. Importantly, this survey includes some voluntarily-offered information on respondents' legal

statuses, making it one of the few data sets currently available to scholars who study unauthorized Latin American migrants in the United States.

On the other hand, this book also draws from a carefully selected set of 14 focus groups, which were conducted in 2003 and intended to aid in interpreting the survey results, as well as to clarify the complexity of Latinos' characteristics and experiences. Thus, the focus groups were conducted across the full spectrum of "generational distance" (p. 18), with respondents of varying nativities, national origins, and legal statuses, and in both traditional and "new" Latino metropolitan areas.

Rather than making one central argument, Fraga et al. organize this book around several key themes which they believe capture and explain important paradoxes evident in the LNS data and focus groups. First, they emphasize *continuity* in several dimensions of Latino life—continuity that emerges alongside the demographic, geographic, and political *changes* mentioned above. Second, they emphasize *complexity* in several dimensions of Latino life, by variables as diverse as national origin, nativity, citizenship, race, and legal status, which they argue cautions against any strong overgeneralizations about the "Latino experience," and instead points to distinct modalities of the Latino experience that are worthy of comparative investigation. Third, the authors emphasize *community*, both in terms of how Latinos are both seeking to create a sense of community and full inclusion in American society (what sociologists have traditionally called "assimilation"), and how Latinos are also becoming more dissimilar to Latin Americans abroad along the way (what sociologists Tomás R. Jiménez and David FitzGerald have termed "homeland dissimulation").

Each of these themes is evident in the topical chapters that follow, all of which center around the two important sociological themes of incorporation and mobility. Chapters Two–Four explore Latinos' attempts to create a sense of "home" in the United States, arguing that an unequal educational system and some persisting discrimination are the key structural impediments to Latinos' feeling more included and becoming more

upwardly mobile. Chapter Five explores Latino life in new rural immigrant destinations, arguing that while geographic dispersion is producing economic gains for Latinos and rural communities alike, it can also be socially and politically isolating. And Chapters Six–Seven explore various aspects of Latinos' political behavior and identity formation, arguing that transnational linkages affirm (rather than undermine) Latinos' sense of American identity, and that a politically meaningful sense of panethnicity among Latinos has grown since the 1990s.

Overall, this book makes a serious contribution to the study of Latino life and political behavior in the United States. Clearly, the 2006 Latino National Survey sets the standard for future surveys conducted on Hispanics/Latinos in the twenty-first century. I commend the authors for not shying away from the patterns of ambivalence, paradox, ambiguity, and contradiction that emerge from their data, particularly in Chapter Four where they discuss Latinos' perceptions of intergroup relations and discrimination. Such patterns might make for a messier and less comfortable story than many social scientists would like to read, but they are also critical to our understanding of the complex contours of Latino life today.

At the same time, I would offer two general critiques of the book. First, it comes across as more political than sociological—perhaps not surprising given that all six of the authors are political scientists, not sociologists. The major benefit of this disciplinary slant is that the book does give significant attention to the various political dimensions involved in Latino migration, settlement, incorporation, identity formation, and behavior, which not all sociologists of Latinos or migration do adequately. However, its major disadvantage is that much of the sociological research and insights on these topics appears glossed over, if not overlooked entirely.

Second, the book comes across as simplified and overview-y. Perhaps this is also not surprising, given that the book is the first full-length publication to emerge from the enormous LNS data set, and given that the authors are clearly trying to reach a more general audience through it. Most scholarly readers will feel (as I did) that the book glosses over the topics they are most

interested in too easily and quickly, as it strives to cover an impressive range of topics both accessibly and in a small amount of space. The good news is that scholarly readers can also look forward to a range of more sophisticated and complex analyses based on the LNS that will emerge in future journal article and book publications.

One Less Car: Bicycling and the Politics of Automobility, by **Zack Furness**. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2010. 348pp. \$24.95 paper. ISBN: 9781592136131.

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In *One Less Car: Bicycling and the Politics of Automobility*, Zack Furness brings us a lively and accessible glimpse into an important and oft-overlooked piece of the transportation topography. He puts forward an intelligent (and clearly impassioned) picture of a safer, saner, and sounder approach to mobility in the form of the bicycle, arguing that its more widespread use is a key element in moving us forward sustainably. Furness gives us some glimpses into the history of both the bicycle and the rider; an astute depiction of the stereotyping of bicycle riders that the media plays into and off of; as well as a portrait of local, national, and global initiatives around bicycles and bicycle culture. He also sensibly cautions us about privileging automobility over all other modes of transportation despite its clear disadvantages in terms of danger, road-hogging, resource guzzling, impersonality, and environmental degradation. This last theme is not unique, but bears repeating, and Furness highlights it in the context of bicycle subordination. As engaging as each of these aspects of the book are, its real strength lies in the author's exposition of the bicycle as a vehicle for a broad and deep social movement, or perhaps more aptly, set of social movements.

Two colorful and intertwining threads weave their way throughout this excursion, bringing to life for the reader the social actors involved in these movements. First, Furness