

Mark Lusk
Kathleen Staudt
Eva Moya *Editors*

Social Justice in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region

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Patricia M. Juárez-Carrillo, MPH, PhD (University of Texas at El Paso) is a native of the US-Mexico border region and was raised in Ciudad Juárez and now lives in El Paso, Texas. She worked as project coordinator at the Center for

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Oralia Loza (Ph.D., University of California at San Diego and San Diego State University, 2009) is an assistant professor of public health sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso College of Health Sciences. Dr. Loza has published three peer-reviewed articles in the past year pertaining to HIV and sexually transmitted infections among female sex workers on the US-Mexico border cities and coauthored several works about HIV risk among injection drug users. She is currently developing her research interests on HIV risks among transgender women in El Paso, Texas, men who have sex with men in Ciudad Juárez, Mixtec-Zapotec migrant farm workers from Oaxaca, and populations on the US-Mexico border.

Mark Lusk is a professor of social work at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Lusk has worked in international development for over three decades on projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the US Information Agency. He was a senior Fulbright Scholar at the Catholic University of Peru and a senior research Fulbright Scholar at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. He was a visiting professor at the University of Costa Rica and the University of Guyana. Mark has managed international programs at three public universities. He is coauthor of *International Development* (Allyn & Bacon) and numerous journal articles on international social development.

Eva M. Moya (Ph.D., University of Texas at El Paso, 2010) is a native of the US-Mexico border. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Texas at El Paso and the Advocacy, Communication, and Social Mobilization coordinator for SOLUCION TB Project Concern International. A specialist in border health, she has more than 25 years of professional experience in the border region. Dr. Moya has published a number of papers on health disparities and infectious diseases in Mexico and the US-Mexico border region. Her expertise includes border health, tuberculosis and stigma, HIV/AIDS, and community health workers. Eva conducted studies throughout the world during her tenure as a Kellogg National Leadership fellow. In 2009, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius reappointed her to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Healthy People 2020 Committee.

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Tony Payan received his B.A. in philosophy and classical languages (1992) and his MBA (1994) at the University of Dallas and his Ph.D. in International Relations at Georgetown University (2001). He has taught on the US-Mexico border for the last 10 years. He is the author of two books: *Cops, Soldiers and Diplomats: Explaining Agency Behavior in the Drug War* and *The Three U.S.-Mexico Border Wars: Drugs, Immigration and Homeland Security*. He is also coeditor of two other volumes: *Gobernabilidad e Ingovernabilidad en la Región Paso del Norte* and *Human Rights along the U.S.-Mexico Border: Gendered Violence and Insecurity*. He is currently working on two books: *A War That Can't Be Won: A Journey Through the War on Drugs* (coedited) and *In the Eye of the Storm: Why Ciudad Juárez Is the Way It Is* (single-authored). He is also the author of numerous articles and book chapters on the US-Mexico border, US-Mexico relations, and the war on drugs.

Kathleen (Kathy) Staudt (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1976) is a professor of political science at the University of Texas at El Paso. She teaches courses on democracy, public policy, borders, and women and politics. She has published many articles and 16 books, including *Violence and Activism at the Border* (UT Press 2008), and two collections for which she served as lead editor: *Human Rights Along the U.S.-Mexico Border* (University of Arizona Press, 2009) and *Cities and Citizenship at the U.S.-Mexico Border* (Palgrave USA, 2010), the latter with coeditors at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, where she was a visiting researcher in 2008–2009. Staudt was the founding director of UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement, which she led for 10 years. She is active in community organizations and nonprofit organizations, serving as former cochair of Border Interfaith, affiliated with the Texas Industrial Areas Foundation.

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Rosalía Solórzano Torres (ABD, Michigan State University) is a *Borderóloga* native of El Paso, Texas. She is a sociologist and Chicanologist who has held academic and research appointments at various academic institutions including the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado; the Center for US-Mexico Studies at the University of California, San Diego, and the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies; the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; and the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist in counseling and guidance. She is member of MALCS, *Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*, a national Chicana Latina organization. She is coeditor of the books *Survey and Analysis of Chicana and Chicano Studies* and *La Chicana: An Introduction, Volume I*. She currently teaches Chicana and Chicano studies, sociology, history, and women's studies at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona.

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Part I
Introduction and Conceptual Framework

Chapter 1

Social Justice in the US-Mexico Border Region

Mark Lusk, Kathleen Staudt, and Eva M. Moya

The US-Mexico border region is a distinct geographic, economic, cultural, and social area that is affected by systematic social and economic injustice. This is evidenced by social and economic problems that are apparent throughout the region, including poverty, health disparities, social inequities, and low-wage assembly, service, and agricultural employment. The endemic poverty coexists with institutional racism, gender violence, and structural violence. The area, while populated by resilient families and communities that have confronted governmental neglect and social isolation, is at the periphery of the American economy. In this chapter, we provide an overview of the challenges in the US-Mexico border region, drawing on conceptual frameworks that address relative power and powerlessness in center-periphery relations. During both historical and contemporary eras, the border zone relates to the capital cities of both Washington, D.C., and Mexico City as a colonized periphery. First, however, we examine social justice from various disciplinary perspectives, grounded at the border.

Like Appalachia, the “Four Corners,” and the “Black Belt” regions, underdeveloped and exploited, distortions are present in the US-Mexico border region.

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