



New Frontiers in Latin American Borderlands

By Leslie G. Cecil

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Approximately 500 years after the first borderlands were being constructed in Latin America to distinguish the indigenous population from their colonizers, boundaries are still being created in Latin America. Although borders still exist, the reasons for their construction and maintenance in the current global world have expanded. Today, Latin American borders include the traditional political borders, as well as more non-traditional borders reflected in art, gender, and social programs. Because borders and the concept of borders are constantly changing, the chapters in this edited volume present a reexamination of the more traditionally defined political borders, as well as those that are constructed by the human body, art, and social policy. The chapters naturally separate into four different general topics: 1) traditional transnational borders, 2) borders and the gendered body, 3) borders as depicted in art, and 4) borders and social programs.

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- Sales Rank: #5091457 in Books
- Published on: 2012-05-01
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 6.00" w x .75" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 150 pages

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Review

"This book is most apropos given the rhetoric that pervades our airwaves and halls of power. Although the majority of the articles compiled in this volume reference the border between the United States and Mexico it does not limit itself to the political ones. For instance, there is a very intriguing expose discussing the divide between the affluent and impoverished. As the editor so poignantly states, "While the chapters in this edited volume are diverse, they all emphasize that where borders and borderlands exists, they are not stable and static, but fluid and contested space(s) where political, social, educational, and economic categories are blurred and compromised". [...] Anyone interested in understanding the dynamics at play should consider reading this book. These are issues which have plagued humanity and which are not going away. Truly understanding the genesis, development, and consequences of these issues is the only way to begin getting a hand on them and come to terms with them. This books helps clarify, shedding light where darkness is all too prevalent, and opens channels of discussion which can only help uncover true solutions to most difficult equations." Dr Thomas Law Professor of Interpreting Services, Missional University tomlaw.org, 14.04.2017

About the Author

Leslie G. Cecil (PhD, 2001, Southern Illinois University Carbondale) is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis and was the Latin American Studies Coordinator at Stephen F. Austin State University from 2009 2011. Her research addresses issues of how the Postclassic Maya (ca. AD 900 1700), during times of social and political stress, used pottery to help identify themselves as part of a cohesive socio-political group.

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