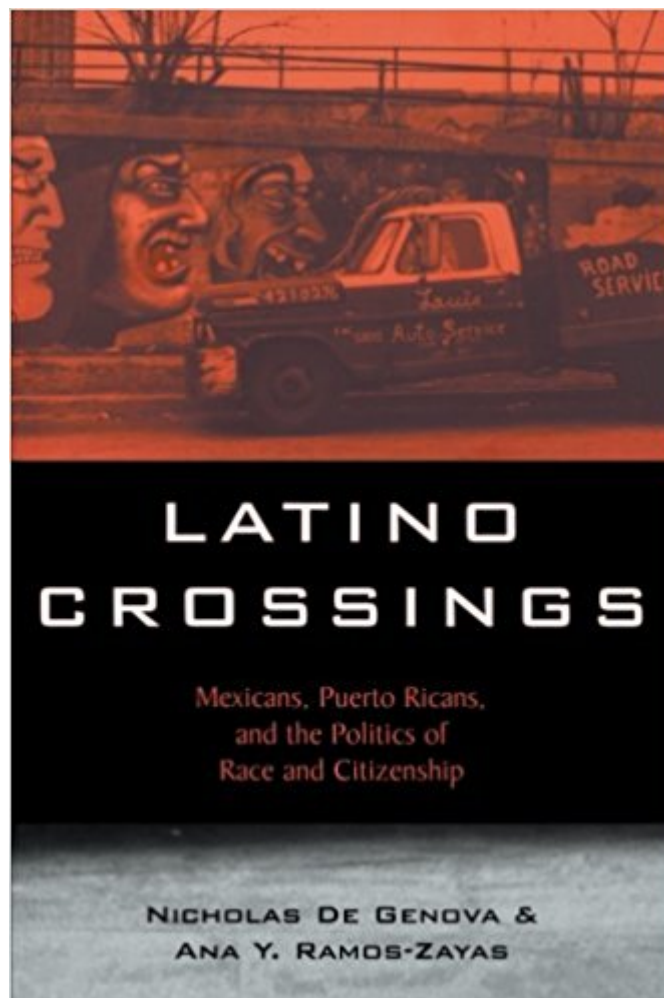




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Latino Crossings: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, And The Politics Of Race And Citizenship



Synopsis

First published in 2003. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

Book Information

Paperback: 268 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (September 26, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415934575

ISBN-13: 978-0415934572

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Nicholas P. De Genova is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Latino Studies at Columbia University. Ana Yolanda Ramos-Zayas is Assistant Professor in the Departments of Anthropology and Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University.

Latino Crossings is an eye-opening study at a propitious time. The book helps dismantle generalizations about the "latino" population in the US, while also bringing the question of citizenship into a new light at a time of heated public debate on the immigration issue. The authors, in an ethnographic study in Chicago, look at issues of "legality" and social tensions between the Mexican and Puerto Rican populations there. For those already versed in such dynamics, the theoretical approach through the racialization lens offers new ways of deconstructing the institutional racism in the United States. Finally, for beginners like me, the introduction juxtaposes the migration of Mexican and Puerto Ricans into US society in an interesting way.

This is a very interested book that tackles the subject of tensions and divisions within and among Latino nationalities in the United States - an issue that all Latinos know exist, but has received little academic attention thus far. The authors base their research in Chicago and focus on divisions

between Puerto Ricans and Mexican immigrants to the city, arguing that differences in political/immigration/citizenship status between the two groups produces different ways that Puerto Ricans and Mexicans construct one another along racial lines. Overall, I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in Latino studies. However, I have two primary critiques of the book. First, the authors use quite a bit of heavy, technical jargon so those lacking a background in anthropology may struggle somewhat with the writing style. Second, the authors focus on the divisions between Puerto Ricans and Mexicans but only pay slight lip service to the Puerto Rican-Mexican unity of college students who rely on one another as peers, companions, and support networks - particularly during college, when Latino youth often find themselves in a predominantly white environment. The authors acknowledge this trend towards pan-Latino unity exists among youth, but they don't delve deeply into it. On the whole, I strongly recommend this book.

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