

# BEYOND THE BORDER: LATINO IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCES



Latino immigration narratives are essential to the entire multicultural landscape of American literature. Although no single text tells the whole story of immigration, the books in this series center around key themes: the ways immigrants see themselves, their journeys, and their communities left behind; generational conflicts between parents and their teens in Latino families; and the power to (re)define their fluid identities amidst border politics and global economy.

## *Antonio's Gun and Delfino's Dream: True Tales of Mexican Migration* by Sam Quinones

Quinones delivers nine astounding pieces of narrative journalism that situate individual migrant experiences within a broader social, political, cultural and economic context. One of the most powerful stories follows a soccer season in Garden City, Kansas. The development of soccer is “a metaphor for Mexican immigrants’ standing in town.” It illustrates both the challenges high school immigrant students face in their communities and also the ways in which the meat-packing industry job prevents social mobility for second generations of Mexican youth.

## *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea

In a novel overflowing with joy, sorrow, and humor, Urrea skillfully weaves the voices of four generations of a Mexican-American family caught in border politics. An exuberant cast of characters, Urrea unveils their stories from their move to southern California after the Mexican Revolution in 1910, the great wave of deportation of 1932 that took them back to Mexico, and their current lives in San Diego and Seattle.

## *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez

Julia is an irreverent young daughter of Mexican immigrants who aspires to become a writer. She refuses to have a quinceañera and to stay at home after completing high school. As she struggles to break free of her parents’ expectations, she also tries to understand her parents’ migration experience: their journey and border crossing, their sacrifices, and their status as undocumented immigrants. In this New York Times bestseller and National Book Awards finalist, Sanchez also questions the stigma associated with mental health conditions, raises awareness about depression, and addresses the issue of suicide among young Latinas.

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**Series Discussion Leaders:** Martha Sanchez, Tom Prasch, Deborah Peterson, Ann Birney, Dennis Etzel, Erin Poupirt, Gene Chávez, Sara Richter, Marilyn Klaus, Miranda Ericsson, Annette Billings, Rosemary Kolich, Trish Reeves, Sarah Tucker, Nicolas Shump, Kim Stanley, Ann Hawkins



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