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The Politics, Economics, and Culture of Mexican-US Migration: Both Sides of the Border. Edward Ashbee, Helene Balsev Clausen, and Carl Pedersen, Editors.

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incorporate part-time flexibility equitably and encourage its use by men, women, mothers and non-mothers alike, to reduce stigmatization. As women continue to receive higher educational degrees with the intent of pursuing successful professional careers, many institutions block their promotion into the upper echelons of the organization through organizational inflexibility. The author discusses cases of corporations that have adopted policies aimed at keeping mothers in the workforce and bringing them back to work after time at home.

Despite the highly unique, homogenous sample of women studied, the book speaks to the need to recognize that women do not always choose to leave their careers. This book challenges organizations to make changes in workforce policies to prevent the drain of female talent and to accommodate re-entry into the workplace for those women who hope to return to work after years at home. Without this, the maternal wall will continue to prevent successful women from succeeding in male-dominated occupations.

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Edward Ashbee, Helene Balsev Clausen and Carl Pedersen (Eds.), *The Politics, Economics, and Culture of Mexican-US Migration: Both Sides of the Border*. New York: Palgrave, 2007. \$79.95.

Despite widely held beliefs about the United States being a nation of immigrants that perennially welcomes those seeking opportunity and fulfillment from all parts of the world, immigration has long been a controversial issue. The waves of European immigrants who came to the United States in the late 19th century were not universally welcomed; it was largely because nativist sentiments prevailed in the form of anti-immigration legislation in the 1920s that immigration slowed considerably and only revived with the loosening of restrictions during the Johnson presidency in the 1960s. Since then, the numbers of immigrants entering the United States has increased rapidly. A significant number are undocumented—as illegal immigrants are euphemistically known. Many come from Central and South American countries, and many are

from Mexico. Once again immigration is a contested issue and calls for the construction of a border "fence," and the imposition of harsh penalties on those who employ undocumented immigrants; the expulsion of these 'illegals' has increased.

This timely collection of papers dealing with a variety of issues affecting migration from Mexico is therefore to be welcomed. Compiled by three academics at the University of Copenhagen's Center for the Study of the Americas, the eighteen chapters in the collection range over a large number of interesting and complex issues. Many, but not all, of the contributors are also associated with the Center. The chapters are clustered around four themes: first, the book begins with an introductory section dealing with the broad issues of migration between Mexico and the United States and questions of identity and allegiance. The second section deals with economic and employment issues, while the third focuses on the border region between the two countries. The final section addresses topical questions of politics and policy.

Although the collection is eclectic and not as coherently organized as this overview may suggest, many chapters make for fascinating reading. Several address the history of anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States, and link popular attitudes to now well-known academic interpretations of what core American values and identity entail. The notion that Americans are being besieged by alien cultures may have been augmented by anti-Islamic attitudes of the last eight years, but it is still firmly rooted in the widely held belief that Latino immigration poses the most serious threat to the Anglo-Saxon, Protestant heritage. Other chapters deal with more practical matters such as the flow of remittances to home communities in Mexico, the impact of NAFTA on jobs and standards of living, the role of immigration in the 2006 midterm elections in the United States, and the problems of low wages and poverty on both sides of the border. Of particular interest is a chapter on women and migration and their experience of being migrants in the United States. Social policy scholars will also be interested in a chapter dealing specifically with the relationship between immigration and social welfare in United States. However, this sample does not do justice to the many other topics addressed in this fascinating book.

The book makes a significant contribution to immigration studies and particularly to an understanding of the complex dynamics and dimensions that characterize contemporary immigration from Mexico. Its commitment to examine migration from both sides of the border offers particularly valuable insights, transcending the emphasis that is currently placed in much of the literature on viewing migration from the United States' perspective. The book is a major resource and should be consulted by anyone interested in migration issues today.

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