

Views from the Borderlands

Arizona Scholars Reflect on Mexico-U.S. Connections



Photo courtesy of David Burckhalter

The main objective of the articles in this dossier is to underline the ambitious internationalization project undertaken by the UNAM in recent years. Its aim is to position our institution in the sphere of the construction of knowledge characterized by interactions on a global level to facilitate academic exchange and mobility. To that end, our institution took on the challenge of creating a network of operational offices in different parts of the globe. Outstanding among them are five in the United States.

With this dossier, we want to celebrate the close collaboration between the CISAN and the University of Arizona, carried out by our Tucson branch.

I must recognize here the work of Claudio Estrada, the director of that center, who has entrusted us with promoting work of researchers from the CISAN and our counterparts at the University of Arizona. In addition, I want to thank Scott Whiteford, the distinguished director of Mexico Initiatives at the same university, for undertaking the coordination of the work of the U.S. American researchers who have contributed their valuable knowledge to this stimulating dossier.

Today, reflecting on the specific characteristics of the Mexico-U.S. border, immersed in contradictions, huge challenges, and contrasts, is a priority responsibility of the CISAN.

Part of what our readers will find in this section is an examination of the geographical space along the Mexico-Arizona border, with a penetrating analysis and critical reflection of Trump's controversial wall, from the perspective of Colin Deeds and Scott Whiteford. We also offer Celeste González's review of the media influence of the political positions about the border taken by the new occupant of the White House, to which she has added an examination of similar historical events. William H. Beezley contributes a splendid narrative about the importance of the 100 years of Mexico's 1917 Constitution. And the dossier closes with articles by Jeffrey M. Banister and Luis E. Coronado Guel. Taken together, all the texts remind us that the Mexico-U.S. border is above all a space where people live intensely and are creating a culture of the meeting of two nations that should aspire to building shared prosperity.

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