

In the opening article of this issue of *Norteamérica*, Wilfred Raussert analyzes the film representation of lands on the border between Canada and the United States, contributing to the growing literature about this area from a perspective that integrates the emerging paradigm of inter-American studies and transcultural studies, arising from the need to understand new forms of translocal and transnational community and identity. Based on a detailed analysis of director Courtney Hunt's *Frozen River*, Raussert discusses the tensions and conflicts between the different ways of imagining and experiencing the link between community and territory. given that it counterposes the territoriality of the "sovereign nation" of the Mohawk people—fluid, permeable, and unstable—to the fixed nature of the sovereign territory of the two nations on which the reserve stands, separated by a river that operates as a geopolitical, natural, and metaphorical border between the state of New York and Canada. This area of illegal crossings is constituted as a third space, which the film resignifies as utopia and heterotopia.

Eduardo Fernández Guzmán takes us to the other border in his bibliographical review of return migration to Mexico, a topic little studied compared to outgoing migration. The author situates this phenomenon in the context of the large migratory flows characteristic of the world today, although he points out that the literature about return migration only first appeared in the 1950s in Europe. Since then, the methodologies and typologies for studying and distinguishing the different kinds of return migration, the reasons behind them (such as because of failure, innovation, or conservation), the scope of the circulation of the migrants (micro, regional, national, continental), and their timing (whether they are cyclical or seasonal, for example) have broadened and diversified. After reviewing the anthropological, demographic, economic, political, psychological, historical, qualitative, and quantitative literature on the topic written in different contexts, moments, and regions of the world, Fernández Guzmán invites his readers to look at this topic more in depth in Mexico since the first study of this kind only appeared in 1996.

The third article of this section compares the Hollywood images of Lupe Vélez and Dolores del Río between 1924 and 1944. Both Mexican actresses successfully made the transition from silent to sound movies, overcoming the racial discrimination of the time because of the color of their skin. This allowed them to play roles depicting a wide variety of nationalities, “Latinas,” and Europeans. Despite their similarities, Vélez was represented as a fiery Mexican woman, with a transgressive sexuality, while Del Río was presented as a Spanish upper-class lady or noblewoman, elegant and decorous. This stereotypical dichotomy had an implicit moral and sexual charge. Despite the fact that they were both identified with these feminine stereotypes, author Clara Rodríguez considers that both actresses exercised a certain degree of control over their public images during their transnational careers with the aim of maintaining their popularity among both Mexican and U.S. audiences, as well as to satisfy movie industry interests, until they left Hollywood.

In the following article, David Rocha Romero compares the work experience of Mexican immigrants who use temp agencies to get low-skilled, low-paying, unstable jobs with undocumented immigrants who find work through social networks that link up their places of origin with their destinations and particularly with the ethnic labor market. After establishing some global economic trends that give rise to precarious labor, such as the flexibilization and decentralization of production and the segmentation of labor markets, Rocha points out that the economic situation of Mexican immigrants has deteriorated because of their growing participation in temporary work. This is because, for many, it is the only kind of work available, particularly if they are unskilled, thus limiting their occupational mobility. The precariousness and vulnerability of these jobs increase because of U.S. policies on undocumented migration, which favor the hiring of immigrant labor by facilitating work by subcontractors who do not respect their employees’ contractual and labor rights.

José Israel Briseño and Omar Neme Castillo argue in their article that foreign direct investment (FDI) is a growing economic factor in destination countries, fostered by a broad gamut of favorable conditions. In Mexico, profits from U.S. FDI go two places: some is funneled into Mexico’s internal market but most is repatriated to the U.S. market. It is important to consider how multinational companies behave in Mexico in this process in the short and long terms because they react to the macroeconomic and industrial conditions of the receiving country. The central question in the article is which of the two economies benefits from the existence of these capital flows. Using an econometric model, the authors conclude that the repatriation of profits made in Mexico by U.S. multinationals has a negative impact on Mexico and a positive impact on the United States. Therefore, they recommend that Mexico stimulate the reinvestment of profits with a combination of focused incentives and universal actions like higher spending on infrastructure and human capital.

For her part, Elizabeth Gutiérrez Romero analyzes the growth of the service economy in Canada, specifically in Toronto, characterized by the high degree of specialization in knowledge-intensive work that began in the 1960s. Intermediate services feed the production process from its beginning phases and later on. These services are often concentrated in certain metropolitan centers, and their growth has implications for the international division of labor and manufacturing, given that, among other things, it increases outsourcing, which transfers services to less developed countries. After situating the service sector in the productive process, Gutiérrez focuses on the spatial implications of its expansion, describing the conditions needed to foster it, like the fact that Toronto is a cluster.

To offer a context for statistical information about Mexican migration to Canada, Camelia Tigau presents a brief interview with Chona Iturralde about the migration of skilled Mexicans to that country. This is presented in the context of the country's new migratory policies and the requirement that Mexicans acquire visas. Both circumstances give the advantage for entering the country to skilled workers, who are offered permanent residency, and not to less skilled workers, who are often awarded temporary status. In the "Critical Notes" section, Zirahuén Villamar studies the perceptions of the U.S. government about the Macondo oil spill and its attempts to diagnose the situation and assess the amount of damage to try to mitigate it, using studies that calculate the damage to different animal species and fishing activities in the area.

We close this issue with two reviews of the book *Los derechos humanos en las ciencias sociales: una perspectiva multidisciplinaria* (Human Rights in the Social Sciences: a Multidisciplinary Perspective) edited by Ariadna Estévez and Daniel Vásquez. The first review, by Valeria Llobet, situates the discussions specifically in the context of Latin America; the second, by human rights defender Édgar Cortez, points out the book's pedagogical side and its importance for political activity around this issue.

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