
Book Review

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Governing Immigration through Crime: A Reader
by: Julie A Dowling and Jonathan Xavier Inda
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Julie A. Dowling and Jonathan Xavier Inda's collection of essays in *Governing Immigration through Crime* examines the multi-faceted nature of how governance of immigration in the USA has shifted towards a criminalised, 'law-and-order' approach. Dowling and Inda note in their introduction that the contributors to this collection each "focus on how the main solution to the 'problem' of undocumented immigration has been both to turn the United States into a fortified enclave as a way of discouraging illegal border incursions and to cast a wide net of control and surveillance across the country in order to police 'troublesome' individuals already inside the nation" (3).

The text is divided into five parts, each containing three distinct, though relevant, articles. Part I, 'Law and criminalisation', explores federal legal characteristics of new forms of immigration governance, as expressed through two primary dimensions. This section's first article, by author Nicholas De Genova, examines the legal production of migrant 'illegality', noting how this concept shapes notions of both vulnerability and deportability. Author Juliet P. Stumpf, in the second article of Part I, introduces the useful conceptual term 'crimmigration' to the discussion. Stumpf attempts to "[unearth] the roots of the confluence of criminal and immigration law and [map] the theoretical impulses that motivate the merger", which she ultimately locates through an engagement with "membership theory" (59). In the final article, Jennifer M. Chacón explores the ways in which relatively-nascent concerns over national security have led to dramatic, effectual impacts upon immigration governance. After rejecting security concerns as essentially 'myth', Chacón argues that, nonetheless, "general crime control measures achieved through immigration enforcement are now depicted and understood as national security matters" (92).

The articles of Part II, or 'Managing borders', all find themselves located within the USA-Mexico borderlands. The first essay of this section, by author Josiah McC. Heyman, engages with the notion of the 'virtual' border barrier. His arguments effectively critique the notion that creations of 'virtual walls' result in greater security for the nation. Leo R. Chavez also explores non-governmental border policing initiatives, primarily that of the 'Minuteman Project' in Arizona. Chavez employs Foucault's 'spectacle', enacted through the Minutemen volunteers, arguing that their activities serve to combine the 'spectacle'

with practices of surveillance, rather than, as Foucault suggests, the latter replacing the former. In the final essay, author Roxanne Lynn Doty incorporates the notion of bodies rendered 'bare life', as well as the concept of space-as-moral alibi, into a discussion of governance through spatial structuring.

The chapters comprising Part III, or 'Policing the interior', collectively discuss different attempts at localised, non-borderlands immigration control. Article one, by authors David Bacon and Bill Ong Hing, explores the US Government's recent use of 'silent raids', which, as they argue, often have dramatic, detrimental impacts upon immigrant families and communities. The second essay, by Rogelio Saenz, Cecilia Menjívar, and San Juanita Edilia García, engages with Arizona's SB 1070 law, in relation to the law's intrusion upon human rights. The last article of this section, offered by Liette Gilbert, looks at the relations between immigration measures and local manifestations, ultimately asserting that "immigration-related municipal ordinances, resolutions, and declarations are some of the latest neoliberal strategies deployed in the governance of immigration, the delocalisation of border control, and the re-bordering of state power" (182).

The primary themes of Part IV, 'Detention and deportation', serve as mechanisms for engaging with the lived experiences of the peoples referenced throughout the entirety of the text. It is within this section that the reader can see the argument manifest that the USA has become not only a sort of 'fortified enclave', but also a "space of confinement and expulsion" (195). Author David Manuel Hernández offers the first essay of Part IV, exploring a 'genealogy of Latino detention' and using such a history to support the argument that the relationship between detention and Latinos is not novel (195). Article two, by Deborah A. Boehm, looks at the ways in which expectations for the future, in relation to acts of deportation, shape the experiences of transnational Mexicans, often leaving many without a clear vision of what their lives may become. In the final essay, author Susan Bibler Coutin explores how the lives of immigrants, through the imposition of 'violent' acts of deportation, are rendered inviable.

The final section, Part V or 'Immigrant contestations', explores the ways in which novel and creative forms of resistance and contestation, in response to such criminalised tactics, are being played out contemporarily. Author Josue David Cisneros, in article one, offers a discussion of *La Gran Marcha*, a pro-immigrant activist march that took place in 2006. Roberto G. Gonzales, in the second essay, engages with the social activism of the undocumented student movement. The final essay of the collection, offered by author James P. Walsh, takes a decidedly different look at 'surveillance' in the borderlands. In it, Walsh looks at the ways in which different humanitarian aid organisations employ forms of surveillance tactics to enhance their humanitarian agendas.

Governing Immigration through Crime covers a wide range of topics relative to the idea of the 'criminalisation' of immigration in the USA, thus making the collection relevant to range of scholarly disciplines, including anthropology, Latin American studies, US studies, and political science. The 'mobility' of many of these essays lends great analytic and geographical coverage to several lines of argumentation offered through the collection. Each of these articles intimately 'play', in unique ways, with notions of insider-versus-outsider, citizen-versus-non-citizen, and member-versus-non-member, as these notions are embodied within the experiences of undocumented immigrants. Furthermore, the arguments make felicitous critical use of influential works on the USA's turn towards punitive measures, such as those offered by Loïc Wacquant, illustrating clear, on-the-ground, 'microcosmic' instantiations of such a

claim. At times, however, arguments offered here appear as direct challenges to certain influential authors, such as Foucault, as is the case with Chavez's engagement on the Minutemen-as-spectacle in Part II.

One of the key influences upon this punitive shift, as referenced by several authors in this reader, is that of post-9/11 links between immigrants and terrorism, and this reviewer feels that this, albeit immensely important, connection perhaps raises a potential critique of the text in its entirety. Why don't we see more explorations of how other immigrant groups-of different national, racial, and ethnic origins-fit into this new form of governance? More specifically, how do other 'undocumented immigrants' fit into these arguments? At times the articles lamentably create a tacit synonymy between 'undocumented immigrant' and 'Latin American'. For this reviewer, it seems quite relevant to discuss how immigrants of non-Latin American origins have perhaps a somewhat more US-historical relationship with criminalised governance. For instance, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which is mentioned by a few authors, is not engaged with in terms of how such historical punitive measures fit into the text's broader argument about the 'new' criminalised governance of immigration (43, 79). While editors Dowling and Inda note that "it is...racialized migrants, Latinos in particular, who disproportionately suffer the consequences of immigration policing", and, furthermore, that they recognise that "the articles by and large concentrate on Latinos", it would seemingly serve the text's overall argumentation well to attend to this perhaps unintended absence (18, 29).

Ultimately, Dowling and Inda's collection offers a clearly-constructed and thorough engagement on the ever-increasing punitive national response to unauthorised immigration in the USA. The reader of this text leaves it with a clear understanding of the vastness of the complexities involved within this sphere of governance. Indeed, despite this reviewer's critical remarks, the editors of this collection do not claim to have represented within these essays all aspects of this shift in performative governance; they explicitly aim to "provide an interdisciplinary social science introduction to the governing of immigration through crime" (3). *Governing Immigration through Crime* accomplishes this goal adeptly and with ease.