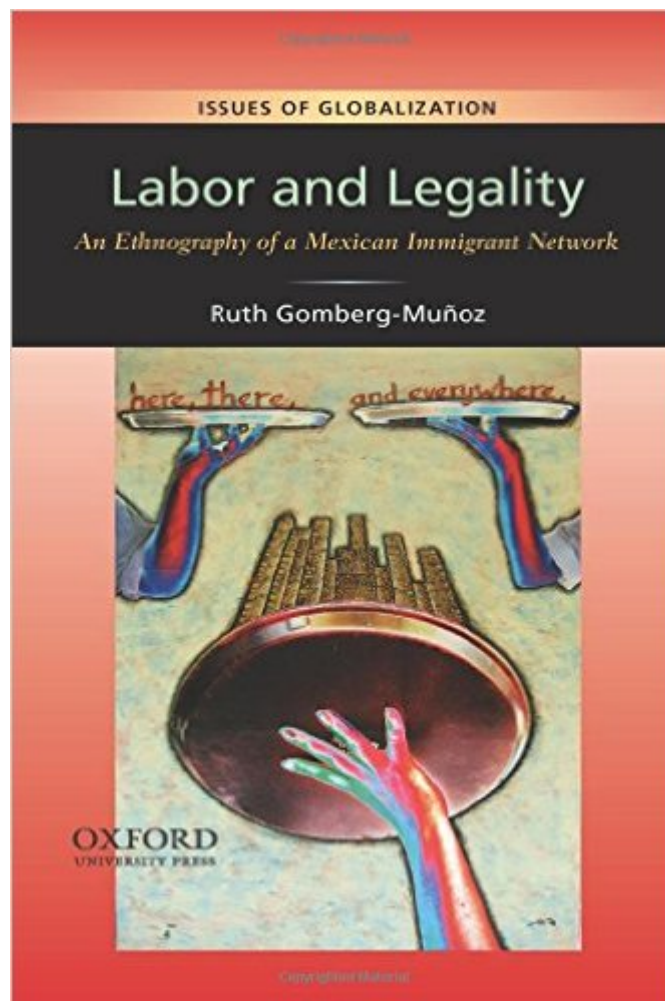The book was found

Labor And Legality: An Ethnography Of A Mexican Immigrant Network (Issues Of Globalization:Case Studies In Contemporary Anthropology)

Synopsis

Winner of the 2011 ALLA Book Award honorable mention!Labor and Legality: An Ethnography of a Mexican Immigrant Network is an ethnography of undocumented immigrants who work as busboys at a Chicago-area restaurant. Ruth Gomberg-MuÃ oz introduces readers to the Lions, ten friends from Mexico committed to improving their fortunes and the lives of their families. Set in and around "Il Vino," a restaurant that could stand in for many places that employ undocumented workers, Labor and Legality reveals the faces behind the war being waged over "illegal aliens" in America. Gomberg-MuÃ oz focuses on how undocumented workers develop a wide range of social strategies to cultivate financial security, nurture emotional well-being, and promote their dignity and self-esteem. She also reviews the political and historical circumstances of undocumented migration, with an emphasis on post-1970 socioeconomic and political conditions in the United States and Mexico.Labor and Legality is one of several volumes in the Issues of Globalization: Case Studies in Contemporary Anthropology series, which examines the experiences of individual communities in our contemporary world. Each volume offers a brief and engaging exploration of a particular issue arising from globalization and its cultural, political, and economic effects on certain peoples or groups. Ideal for introductory anthropology courses-and as supplements for a variety of upper-level courses-these texts seamlessly combine portraits of an interconnected and globalized world with narratives that emphasize the agency of their subjects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm teaching this book in an introductory college class with fantastic results. It combines compelling personal stories of 10 undocumented immigrants with great historical and public policy discussions that helps my students understand the history of interconnections between Mexico and the US, the complex reasons people migrate and the effects of US immigration policies. It addresses one of the most contentious debates in America with the fairness, dignity and complexity it deserves. I would strongly recommend it for a range of classes -- It would work in introductory anthropology, ethnic studies, urban studies courses as well as in other courses that explore globalization, immigration and public policy. It's accessible enough for introductory students but not at all over-simplified. A perfect mix.

I had this book assigned for a class, but once I picked it up I couldn't put it down. I even stayed up very very late to finish. The book follows a group of of normal guys and tells their stories as people without papers. It doesn't try to demonize or canonize them as saints. It only shows them as human beings trying to adapt and survive in a unique situation. Furthermore, there is no unnecessary victimization of the workers in this book. Rather, the author tries to show them as active agents with limited choices.While the day-to-day personal narrative portions keep the reader very interested, these are interspersed among insightful sections of well-researched analysis and historical/political context.I learned a lot from this book and I would recommend it highly to anyone who has even a small interest in immigration and the lives of immigrants.

A friend of mine recommended this book, which is about undocumented immigration from the point of view of undocumented workers. I was skeptical, because I have no tolerance for political rhetoric, but this book is humanizing and easy to access. In fact, it reads sort of like a novel, in that it draws you in with personal stories, but it also seems to be well-researched with smart political and historical analysis. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants more information about migration in the United States. I learned more about undocumented migration from reading this book than I have from following the news for the last five years.

This was a well written, fascinating study. The author got to know about a dozen Mexican dishwashers working in a restaurant in Chicago. She not only saw their lives at work but also their living situations in Chicago. She also went to their hometown in Mexico to see the reasons for their immigration and the impact of the remittances they sent home. In this time of debate about

immigration to the United States, with a great deal of heat and not enough light, Gomberg-MuÃ oz shows how hard these immigrants work and how much they contribute to the fabric of these United States.

Amazing story with amazing people and just awesome as a whole. The author gets to the stories and makes them seem as people but in an anthropologic way. She has a way with these people that makes them seem like they are not to be pitied but valued as a culture.

Eye opener! Shared this book with everyone I've come in contact with.

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