

Delve Deeper Into U.S.-Mexico Border Issues

This multimedia resource list provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by two upcoming P.O.V./PBS programs: "Señorita Extraviada" by Lourdes Portillo (August 20th at 10pm) and "Escuela" by Hannah Weyer (August 27th at 10pm) (check local listings).

ADULT FICTION ON BORDER LIFE

Set on either side of the Mexican-American border, the life and landscape of the Border region is an intrinsic element in all of these stories.

Bannister, Jo. *Unlawful Entry*. New York: Severn House, 1998.

Boswell, Robert. *American Owned Love*. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1997.

Castillo, Ana. *So Far From God*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1993.

Cisneros, Sandra. *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. New York: Random House, 1991.

Fitch, Marina. *Border, The*. New York: Ace Books, 1999. [Young Adult]

Fuentes, Carlos and Alfred MacAdam. *The Crystal Frontier*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997.

Limon, Graciela. *Memories of Ana Calderon, The*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 1994.

Lopez-Medina, Sylvia. *Cantora*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1992.

Padilla, Mike. *Hard Language*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 2000.

Straight, Susan. *Highwire Moon*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

ADULT NONFICTION ABOUT BORDER LIFE

The social and economic issues found in the U.S.-Mexico border region are complex. The following titles discuss immigration, industrialization, and the unique cultures that have developed in this constantly changing area.

Byrd, Bobby; Byrd, John William. *Puro Border: Dispatches, Snapshots and Graffiti*. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2002.

Davidson, Miriam. *Lives on the Line: Dispatches from the U.S.-Mexico Border*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2000.

Herzog, Lawrence A. *Shared Space: Rethinking the U.S.-Mexico Border Environment*. La Jolla, CA: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, 2000.

Hoobler, Dorothy. *The Mexican American Family Album*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Langewiesche, William. *Cutting for Sign*. New York: Pantheon, 1993.

Martinez, Oscar J. *Border People: Life and Society in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 1994.

Rotell, Sebastian. *Twilight on the Line: Underworlds and Politics at the U.S.-Mexico Border*. New York: Norton, 1998.

Urrea, Luis Alberto; Lueders-Booth, John. *By the Lake of Sleeping Children: The Secret Life of the Mexican Border*. New York: Anchor Books, 1996.

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

Children of families living along the border, often migrants, face stresses unlike any other, yet as illustrated in the following stories they strive for and find happiness in the most dire of circumstances.

Brimner, Larry Dane. *A Migrant Family*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 1992.

Dorros, Arthur. *Radio Man = Don Radio: A Story in English and Spanish*. New York: Harper Collins, 1993.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane; Migdale, Lawrence. *Migrant Worker: A Boy From the Rio Grande Valley*. New York: Holiday House, 1996.

Mora, Pat. *Tomás and the Library Lady*. New York: A.A. Knopf (Distributed by Random House) 1997.

Thomas, Jane Resh. *Lights on the River*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1994.

DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT BORDER LIFE

The following are documentary films that explore the different people, cultures, and issues found along the U.S. - Mexico border.

"Forgotten Americans, The." Produced and directed by Hector Galan in association with Southwest Texas State University. San Marcos, TX: Southwest Texas University, c. 2000. 60 min. (Captures a day in the life of people living along the Texas-Mexico border).

"Go Back to Mexico!" Produced and Directed by Hector Galan. Boston: WGBH Educational Foundation; distributed by PBS Video, c. 1994. 57 min. (One woman's attempt to illegally immigrate from Mexico to the United States).

"Natives: Immigrant Bashing on the Border." Produced by Jesse Lerner, Scott Sterling, and the University of Southern California at the Center for Visual Anthropology. New York: Filmmaker's Library, c. 1991. 28 min. (A documentary on the xenophobia of some Americans living in California along the U.S.-Mexico border).

"Ties That Bind, The." A film by Jose Roberto Gutierrez. A Co-production of Maryknoll World Productions and the Hispanic Telecommunications Network. Maryknoll, NY: Maryknoll World Productions, c. 1996. 56 min. (The human drama behind the current debate over U.S. immigration policy).

WEB SITES TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT LIFE ALONG THE BORDER

The sites listed below are gateways to further information for and about the people living near the U.S.-Mexico border, including Latino and Chicano culture, education, history and government.

www.borderbase.org

BorderBase is a bilingual directory of governmental organizations, agencies, and non-profit institutions that conduct work along the California-Baja California border. The BorderBase project seeks to promote cross border collaboration and understanding by providing a simple networking and information tool for local border communities.

www.utep.edu/border/inf.html

The Borderlands Encyclopedia. A useful web-based multimedia instructional resource on contemporary issues of the U. S.-Mexico border.

www.rcf.usc.edu/~cmmr

The Center for Multilingual Multicultural Research, located at the University of Southern California. Areas of interest include the USC Latino and Language Minority Teacher Projects, bilingualism and English as a second language, multiculturalism, and Latino/Hispanic resources.

www.hispaniconline.com

Hispanic Online. This commercial site offers the Latino community chat rooms, events, issues of interest, message boards, and news.

Continued on reverse side

Delve Deeper Into U.S.-Mexico Border Issues

SEÑORITA EXTRAVIADA (MISSING YOUNG WOMAN)

By Lourdes Portillo

Someone is killing the young women of Juárez, Mexico. Since 1993, over 270 young women have been raped and murdered in a chillingly consistent and brazen manner. Authorities ignore pleas for justice for the victims' families and the crimes go unpunished. Most disturbingly, evidence of government complicity remains uninvestigated as the killings continue to this day. Crafting a film that is both a poetic meditation and a mystery, "Señorita Extraviada" is a haunting investigation into an unspeakable crime wave amid the disorders and corruption of one of the biggest border towns in the world. An Independent Television Service (ITVS) and Latino Public Broadcasting Co-Presentation.

P.O.V. premiere on PBS, Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at 10 p.m. (check local listings).

In "Senorita Extraviada," we see how strongly foreign-owned factories, known as maquiladoras, impact the local community. To learn more, explore the following resources.

ADULT NONFICTION

Benitez, Rohri. *El Silencio Que la Voz do Todas Quiembra: Mujeres y Victimias de Ciudad Juarez*. Chihuahua, Mexico: Ediciones del Azar, 1999. [Spanish]

Bowden, Charles. *Juarez: The Laboratory of Our Future*. New York: Aperture, 1998.

Fatemi, Khosrow. *The Maquiladora Industry: Economic Solution or Problem?* New York: Praeger, 1990.

Iglesias Prieto, Norma. *Beautiful Flowers of the Maquiladora: Life Histories of Women Workers in Tijuana*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, Institute of Latin American Studies, 1997.

Kamel, Rachael; Hoffman, Anya. *The Maquiladora Reader: Cross-Border Organizing Since NAFTA*. Philadelphia, PA: American Friends Service Committee, 1999.

Whitechapel, Simon. *Crossing to Kill: The True Story of the Serial-Killer Playground*. London: Virgin, 2000.

DOCUMENTARIES

"Borderline Cases." A film by Lynn Corcoran. Ole, PA: Bullfrog Films, c. 1997. 65 min. (Problems caused by factories along the U.S.-Mexico border which did not need to comply with environmental regulations).

"Maquila." A film by Saul Landau and Sonia Angulo. Pomona, CA: College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences and Media Vision at California State Polytechnic University. Distributed by The Cinema Guild, c. 2000. 55 min. (Presents the pros and cons of the maquiladora [or maquila], an export manufacturing program established by the Mexican Government in the 1960s).

"Performing the Border." A film by Ursula Biemann. New York: Women Make Movies, c. 1999. 43 min. (This experimental work investigates the growing feminization of the global economy and its impact on Mexican women living and working in the border area).

ESCUELA

By Hannah Weyer

A moving follow-up to P.O.V.'s "La Boda" (*The Wedding*), the saga of the Luis family continues as Liliana and Elizabeth, two of the Luis family daughters, try to make their way in 21st century America. For Liliana who begins her freshman year in high school, this means dealing with the harsh demands of work in the fields, constant travel and endlessly changing schools, classes and friends as she migrates with her farm-worker family between California, Texas and Mexico. For Elizabeth, a limited education and the struggle to secure citizenship for her husband combine to create an uncertain economic outlook. In this compassionate portrait, "Escuela" continues the story of one Mexican-American family's drive towards a better future.

P.O.V. premiere on PBS, Tuesday, August 27, 2002 at 10 p.m. (Check local listings).

Many of the people living along the Border are migrant agricultural workers. The following resources demonstrate how the transitory nature of their livelihood affects everything from education, as shown in "Escuela," to how they are viewed by society.

ADULT FICTION

Chacon, Daniel. *Chicano Chicanyery*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press, 2000.

Chavez, Denise. *Face of an Angel*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1994.

Guerrero, Lucrecia. *Chasing Shadows*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2000.

Islas, Arturo. *Migrant Souls*. New York: W. Morrow, 1990.

Troncoso, Sergio. *Last Tortilla and Other Stories, The*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 1999.

Villanueva, Tino.; Hoggard, James. *Chronicle of my worst years =Crónica de mis años peore*. Evanston, IL: TriQuarterly Books, 1994. [poetry]

ADULT NONFICTION

Hayes, Curtis W.; Bahruth, Robert.; Kessler, Carolyn. *Literacy Con Cariño: A Story of Migrant Children's Success*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1998.

Murphy, Arthur D.; Blanchard, Colleen. *Latino Workers in the Contemporary South*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2001.

Tywniak, Frances Esquibel. *Migrant Daughter: Coming of Age as a Mexican American Woman*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2000.

Valle, Isabel. *Fields of Toil: A Migrant Family's Journey*. Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press, 1994.

Premiering this Fall :

P.O.V.'s BORDERS, an original Web-series, is PBS's first showcase dedicated to exploring interactive storytelling. It will creatively consider both literal and conceptual aspects of the question 'what is a border?' The series will feature the original work of artists, filmmakers, writers, photographers and others. Check the website for more information: www.pbs.org/pov.