Conventionally, U.S. immigration history has been understood through the lens of restriction and those who have been barred from getting in. In contrast, this book considers immigration from the perspective of Chinese elites—intellectuals, businessmen, and students—who gained entrance because of immigration exemptions. Exploring a century of Chinese migrations, the book looks at how the model minority characteristics of many Asian Americans resulted from U.S. policies that screened for those with the highest credentials in the most employable fields, enhancing American economic competitiveness. The earliest U.S. immigration restrictions targeted Chinese people but exempted students as well as individuals who might extend America's influence in China. Western-educated Chinese such as Madame Chiang Kai-shek became symbols of the U.S. impact on China, even as they patriotically advocated for China's modernization. World War II and the rise of communism transformed Chinese students abroad into refugees, and the Cold War magnified the importance of their talent and training. As a result, Congress legislated piecemeal legal measures to enable Chinese of good standing with professional skills to become citizens. Pressures mounted to reform American discriminatory immigration laws, culminating with the 1965 Immigration Act. Filled with narratives featuring such renowned Chinese immigrants as I. M. Pei, this book examines the shifts in immigration laws and perceptions of cultural traits that enabled Asians to remain in the United States as exemplary, productive Americans.
This chapter considers the developments of the 1980s for the Jamaican guestworkers. The decade brought guestworkers immigration reform legislation known as the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), which promised permanent legal status for all “alien farmworkers.” It also brought a huge $51 million courtroom victory and unprecedented attention in newsprint, books, and on film. Yet the 1980s ended up being a decade of devastating disappointment. Cane cutters—and only cane cutters—were excluded from the congressional “amnesty” for immigrants; court appeals denied them the back wages awards they had won; and machines replaced them in the cane fields. For Jamaican guestworkers, the 1980s left the sort of bitter aftertaste that lasts a lifetime.

Lalo Alcaraz
Héctor D. Fernández L'Hoeste

The book proposes a critical study of the work by Latino cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz, a key voice in the controversial topic of immigration. It contends that his production is significant for its documentation of the travails of the community and its assessment of the frictions resulting from a radical shift in national demographics: the rise of Latinos as the largest minority ethnicity and the eventual transition of the general population into a mode of plurality rather than majority. In his cartoons and comic strips, readers can recognize how Latinos have been used by opportunist politicians and media personalities seeking personal benefit. It is also possible to visualize how, in many cases, the political system has operated against Latinos in an almost systematic fashion, failing to acknowledge their lengthy historical record and contributions as Americans. The book chronicles the cartoonist’s evolution from a cultural actor willing to criticize injustice for the sake of retribution to one who effectively identifies and denounces the mechanisms behind rampant
societal inequity—most crucially, the dynamics and implications of a hidden mainstream norm, supportive of a cultural ideology benefiting an exclusive segment of the population. In the evolution of his production, the search for a more acute representation and dissection of prejudice and exclusion becomes plain. In a sense, Alcaraz’s work is a testament not only to the growing pains of Latinos, but most importantly to those of the entire nation, as it comes to terms with the redefinition of US identity in the twenty-first century.

Holland as a Body Politic, II: Seeds of Discord
James D. Tracy

in The Founding of the Dutch Republic: War, Finance, and Politics in Holland, 1572-1588

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2008
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199209118.003.0010
Item type: chapter

Holland's Baltic trade flourished as never before, and skilled immigrants helped revive local industries. But prosperity raised a political issue: should Holland trade with provinces loyal to Spain? The more Holland's leaders pushed for free trade, the more confederates in the Union of Utrecht saw them as selling out the cause to boost profits. Meanwhile, Holland upheld the public supremacy of the Reformed religion. Yet Reformed religion embraced two theologies. One, based in Geneva, required a church free of state control; the other, based in Zurich, sanctioned governance of the Church by magistrates. Most Holland clergy preferred the former view, while magistrates favored the latter. Thus several towns had major conflicts over appointment of preachers; at the provincial level, each side ignored the other's pronouncements on church governance.

Deporting the Unwelcome Visitors
Cybelle Fox

in Three Worlds of Relief: Race, Immigration, and the American Welfare State from the Progressive Era to the New Deal

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: October 2017
Publisher: Princeton University Press
DOI: 10.23943/princeton/9780691152233.003.0006
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines variation in the extent to which relief officials cooperated with the Immigration Service to expel dependent aliens.
Frustrated by the inability and sometimes unwillingness of immigration authorities to deport Mexicans en masse, relief and other public officials in Los Angeles took matters into their own hands. They asked the Immigration Service to conduct raids in their communities to round up deportable aliens, and they invited the Immigration Service to set up shop in their welfare bureaus to interrogate all aliens applying for relief. Aside from the protests of the Mexican community and some business leaders, there was little dissent to this course of action; elected officials approved of these measures, as did local private relief officials. However, the situation was very different in northeastern and midwestern cities. When federal immigration and a few elected officials tried to find ways to expel dependent aliens in Chicago, for example, public and private relief officials came to their defense.

Food Trucks, Cultural Identity, and Social Justice
Julian Agyeman, Caitlin Matthews, and Hannah Sobel (eds)
Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018
Publisher: The MIT Press
DOI: 10.7551/
Item type: book

The urban foodscape is changing, rapidly. Fish tacos, vegan cupcakes, gourmet pizzas, and barbeque ribs, and all served from the confines of cramped, idling, and often garishly painted trucks. These food trucks, part of a wider phenomenon of street food vending, while common in the global South, are becoming increasingly common sights in many cities, towns, and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Within the past few years, urban dwellers of all walks have flocked to these new businesses on wheels to get their fix of food that is inventive, authentic, and often inexpensive. In From Loncheras to Lobsta Love, we offer a variety of perspectives from across North America on the guiding questions “What are the motivating factors behind a city’s promotion of mobile food vending?” and “How might these motivations connect to the broad goals of social justice?” The cities represented in the chapters range from Montreal to New Orleans, from Durham to Los Angeles, and are written by contributors from a diversity of fields. In all, the chapters of From Loncheras to Lobsta Love tell stories of the huckster and the truckster, of city welcomes and city confrontations, of ground-up and of top-down, of the right to entrepreneurship and of rights to active citizenship, of personal and cultural identities and patterns of eating and spatial mobilities, of cultural and political geographies, of gastro-tourist entities and as city-branding tools, of the clash of ideals of ethnic ‘authenticity’ and local/organic sourcing.
Much has been published on the history of Japanese immigration to Brazil, Japanese Brazilians in Brazil, and Japanese Brazilians’ “return” labor migrations to Japan (known as dekassegui). Yet none has gone beyond and above the essentialized categories of “the Japanese” in Brazil and “Brazilians” in Japan. This book demonstrates that Japanese Brazilian identity has never been a static, fixed set of traits that can be counted and inventoried. Rather it is about being and becoming, a process of identity in motion responding to the push-and-pull between being positioned and positioning in a historically changing world. The book is based on the author's painstaking research in Brazil and Japan between 1997 and 2013, involving extensive life history interviews (and follow-ups) with 116 Japanese Brazilians of several generations and diverse social backgrounds, in combination with substantial archival research and multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork. This book examines Japanese immigrants and their descendants’ historically shifting sense of identity that comes from their engagement or experience of historical changes in socioeconomic and political structure. Each chapter illustrates how Japanese Brazilian identity is in formation, across generation, across gender, across class, across race, and in the movement of people between nations.

The Rescue of the Third Class on the Titanic
David Gleicher

This work seeks to understand why a disproportionately large number of third class passengers, particularly women and children, died during the sinking of the Titanic in relation to the first and second classes. It examines the gender, class, social, and cultural factors that influenced this disparity. It aims to uncover both why and how five hundred and thirty one third class passengers died on the night of April 14th 1912. A key area of focus is the difficult relationship between the ship’s authorities and the men of the third class, and the extent to which this determined the fate of passengers during the rescue efforts. The introduction asks ‘Who were the third class passengers?’ and uses ethnic
and economic backgrounds to suggest the third class belonged to the ‘Old Immigration’ wave of migrants, rather than the contemporary ‘New Immigration’ of the first and second. The first chapter concerns the exclusion of third class narratives in the ‘popular story’ of the Titanic. Chapters two through seven determine the whereabouts of the third class during every stage of evacuation, and flags the discrepancies in testimonies from both the British and American inquiries. Chapter eight provides a conclusion, which claims the ‘popular story’ includes a great many falsehoods with regard to the third class - including their treatment by crew, their behaviours, and their survival rates. The first appendix tables nationalities into regions; the second outlines the twenty routes to the lifeboats, as testified by one of the Titanic design architects; and the third provides deck plans for every level of the ship.

City of Islands
Tammy L. Brown

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: January 2017

In City of Islands, Dr. Tammy L. Brown uses the life stories of Caribbean intellectuals as “windows” into the dynamic history of immigration in New York and the long battle for racial equality in modern America. This is an important book because it is the first interdisciplinary, book-length study of how specific Caribbean intellectuals—Ethelred Brown, Richard B. Moore, Pearl Primus, Shirley Chisholm, and Paule Marshall, used the written, spoken and performed word in the cause of racial equality in the United States and in the Caribbean throughout the entire twentieth century. In the discipline of History, Caribbean immigrants living in the United States is surprisingly understudied. We have only four book-length historical accounts, and they only cover Caribbean contributions to the tradition of black political radicalism during the first half of the twentieth century. In contrast, City of Islands includes original analysis of sermons, speeches, poetry, short stories, novels, and choreography, to provide insights into each individual’s personality and intellectual style of self-presentation.

Porous Borders
Julian Lim

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018

Porous Borders is a book that explores the concept of porous borders through the lens of immigration and identity. It examines the ways in which individuals navigate the complexities of borders, both physical and ideological, and the impact of these borders on their personal and collective identities. The book delves into the experiences of various groups of immigrants, both in terms of their origin and their destination, and how they handle the challenges of living in a society that values assimilation and uniformity. Through a series of case studies and theoretical analyses, Porous Borders offers a nuanced and thought-provoking examination of the contemporary landscape of immigration and identity.
With the railroad’s arrival in the late nineteenth century, immigrants of all colors rushed to the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, transforming the region into a booming international hub of economic and human activity. Following the stream of Mexican, Chinese, and African American migration, Julian Lim presents a fresh study of the multiracial intersections of the borderlands, where diverse peoples crossed multiple boundaries in search of new economic opportunities and social relations. However, as these migrants came together in ways that blurred and confounded elite expectations of racial order, both the United States and Mexico resorted to increasingly exclusionary immigration policies in order to make the multiracial populations of the borderlands less visible within the body politic, and to remove them from the boundaries of national identity altogether. Using a variety of English- and Spanish-language primary sources from both sides of the border, Lim’s transnational study reveals how a borderlands region that has traditionally been defined by Mexican-Anglo relations was in fact shaped by a diverse population that came together dynamically through work and play, in the streets and in homes, through war and marriage, and in the very act of crossing the border.

Bound in Tension
Lori A. Flores
in Grounds For Dreaming: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the California Farmworker Movement
Published in print: 2016 Published Online: May 2016
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the attitudes of Mexican Americans toward braceros and “wetbacks” in the Salinas Valley during the period 1947–1960, with particular emphasis on how the tension between them hindered the formation of a larger transnational Mexican-origin community in the region. It considers the concerns of some Mexican American middle-class civil rights leaders about the threat posed by undocumented immigrants on their economic stability and social respectability. It also discusses two particular flashpoints that brought the intraethnic conflict between Mexican Americans, braceros, and undocumented migrants into greater relief: the Immigration and Naturalization Service’s “Operation Wetback” of 1954 and the peak of the Bracero Program in 1956. The chapter shows that the Mexican American agricultural working class felt betrayed by the state for creating a Bracero Program and immigration system that served at the pleasure of agribusiness instead of protecting them as worker-citizens.
From Bataille to Badiou
Adrian May

Published in print: 2018 Published Online: May 2019
Publisher: Liverpool University Press
DOI: 10.3828/liverpool/9781786940438.001.0001
Item type: book

This book provides an exhaustive reading of the significant yet understudied intellectual review Lignes, from 1987 to 2017, to demonstrate how it has managed to preserve and develop the legacy of French radical thought often referred to as ‘French Theory’ or ‘la pensée 68’. Whilst many studies on intellectual reviews from the 1930s to the 1980s exist, this book crucially illuminates the shifting intellectual and political culture of France since the 1980s, filling a major gap in contemporary debates on the continued relevance of French intellectuals. This book provides a strong counter-narrative to the received account that, after the anti-totalitarian ‘liberal moment’ of the late 1970s, Marxism and structuralism were completely banished from the French intellectual sphere. It provides the historical context behind the rise of such internationally renowned thinkers such as Alain Badiou, Jacques Rancière Jean-Luc Nancy, whilst placing them within an intellectual genealogy stretching back to Georges Bataille and Maurice Blanchot in the 1930s. The book also introduces the reader to lesser known but nonetheless significant thinkers, including Lignes editor Michel Surya, Dionys Mascolo, Daniel Bensaïd, Fethi Benslama, Anselm Jappe and Robert Kurz. Through the review’s pages, a novel cultural history of France emerges as intellectuals respond to pressing contemporary issues, such as the fall of Communism, the European migrant crisis and rising nationalist tensions, the globalisation of financial capitalism and the 2008 economic crisis, scandals surrounding paedophilia and the return of religious thought to France, as well as debates on literature and the political value of art.

Adjusting the Contrast
Sarita Malik and Darrell M. Newton (eds)

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: May 2018
Publisher: Manchester University Press
DOI: 10.7228/manchester/9781526100986.001.0001
Item type: book

Through contextual and textual analyses, Adjusting the contrast: British television and constructs of race explores a range of texts and practices that address the ongoing phenomenon of television’s relationship with ‘race’. The collection brings together media scholars from the UK and US, who focus on a range of issues, from television scheduling
to historical questions of representation. The collection also seeks to examine how television represents Britishness through whiteness, and continued constructs of racialised normativity. Included are analyses of programmes such as Doctor Who, Shoot the Messenger, Desi DNA and Top Boy, which explore thebroadcast policies and cultural production in the 'new age' of television. Other chapters examine the reframing of the 1950s on contemporary television though the example of Call the Midwife; the continuing myth of a multicultural England on Luther, and how sitcoms such as Till Death Us Do Part and Mind Your Language framed racial tensions through comedy. Through a critical analysis of literature and new empirical research, cultures of production are deconstructed, and public service remits examined.

UKIP, Brexit and the Disruptive Political Potential of English National Identity

Robert Ford and Maria Sobolewska

in Governing England: English Identity and Institutions in a Changing United Kingdom

Published in print: 2018 Published Online: May 2019
Item type: chapter

The defining feature of English national identity for many decades was its absence in politics. This has changed with the mobilisation of a particular strain of English national identity. It was not the only factor influencing choices in the 2016 EU referendum, but it was an important one. All of the concerns that are most intensely expressed by English identifiers—opposition to immigration, social and cultural conservatism, political disaffection and support for separate English political institutions—were associated with higher support for Brexit. Brexit, however, is not the end of the story. The referendum provoked intense political mobilisation by the English identifiers, but the election of June 2017 has sparked a similarly intense reaction from the British identifiers, denying the pro-Brexit Government their majority. The two votes just a year apart have highlighted how deep the identity divides in England have become.
This chapter focuses on the ways in which the increased focus on border control and debates over immigration policies helped strengthen the South Texas model of labor relations during the 1910s and 1920s, even as farm interests feared that immigration restriction could jeopardize their ability to attract workers from Mexico. It deals with the effort to head off immigration restriction at the US-Mexico border and the effects of those efforts on the ethnic Mexican population of the region.

This book argues for a cultural, rather than a sociological or economic, approach to understand how immigrants become part of new country. It argues that the language used to talk about immigration determines the kinds of things that can be said about it. In contrast to the language of integration or assimilation which evaluates an immigrant’s success in relation to a static endpoint (e.g. integrated or not), ‘settling’ makes it possible to see how immigrants and their descendants engage in an ongoing process of adaptation. In order to understand this process of settling, it is important to pay particular attention to immigrants not only as consumers, but also as producers of culture, since artistic production provides a unique and nuanced perspective on immigrants’ sense of home and belonging, especially within the multi-generational process of settling. In order to anchor these larger theoretical questions in actual experience, this book looks at music, theatre and literature by artists of Turkish immigrant origin in France.
Foreigners, minorities and integration
Sarah Hackett
Published in print: 2013 Published Online: January 2014
Item type: book

This book is a study of two post-war Muslim ethnic minority communities that have been overwhelmingly neglected in the academic literature and public debate on migration to Britain and Germany: those of Newcastle upon Tyne and Bremen. In what is the first work to offer a comparative assessment of Muslim migrant populations at a local level between these two countries, it provides an examination of everyday immigrant experiences and a reassessment of ethnic minority integration on a European scale. It traces the development of Muslim migrants from their arrival to and settlement in these post-industrial societies through to their emergence as fixed attributes on their cities’ landscapes. Through its focus on the employment, housing and education sectors, this study exposes the role played by ethnic minority aspirations and self-determination. Other themes that run throughout include the long-term effects of Britain and Germany's overarching post-war immigration frameworks; the convergence between local policies and Muslim ethnic minority behaviour in both cities; and the extent to which Islam, the size of migrant communities, and regional identity influence the integration process. The arguments and debates addressed are not only pertinent to Newcastle and Bremen, but have a nation- and Europe-wide relevance, with the conclusions transgressing the immediate field of historical studies. This book is essential reading for academics and students alike with an interest in migration studies, modern Britain and Germany, and the place of Islam in contemporary Europe.

Chinatown Opera Theater in North America
Nancy Yunhwa Rao
Published in print: 2017 Published Online: September 2017
Item type: book

In this expansive project, Nancy Yunhwa Rao examines the world of Chinatown theaters, focusing on iconic theaters in San Francisco and New York but also tracing the transnational networks and migration routes connecting theaters and performers in China, Canada, and even Cuba. Drawing on a wealth of physical, documentary, and anecdotal evidence, Rao brings together the threads of an enormously complex story: on one hand, the elements outside the theaters, including U.S.
government policies regulating Chinese immigration, dissemination through recordings and print materials of the music performed in the theaters, impresarios competing with each other for performers and audiences, and the role of Chinese American business organizations in facilitating the functioning of the theaters; and on the other hand, the world inside the theaters, encompassing the personalities and careers of individual performers, audiences, repertoire, and the adaptation of Chinese performance practices to the American immigrant context. The study also documents the important influence of the theaters on the Chinatown community's sense of its cultural self. Presenting Chinese American music as American music, Rao's work significantly revises understandings of American music by placing the musical activities of an important immigrant group firmly within the bounds of music identified as "American," liberating it from the ghetto of exoticism. Firmly grounded in both Chinese and English language sources, this study offers critical insight into both historical and contemporary questions of cultural identity in the American context.

The 'desegregation' of English schools
Olivier Esteves

In 1960–62, a large number of white autochthonous parents in Southall became very concerned that the sudden influx of largely non-Anglophone Indian immigrant children in local schools would hold back their children’s education. It was primarily to placate such fears that ‘dispersal’ (or ‘bussing’) was introduced in areas such as Southall and Bradford, as well as to promote the integration of mostly Asian children. It consisted in sending busloads of immigrant children to predominantly white suburban schools, in an effort to ‘spread the burden’. This form of social engineering went on until the early 1980s. This book, by mobilising local and national archival material as well as interviews with formerly bussed pupils in the 1960s and 1970s, reveals the extent to which dispersal was a flawed policy, mostly because thousands of Asian pupils were faced with racist bullying on the playgrounds of Ealing, Bradford, etc. It also investigates the debate around dispersal and the integration of immigrant children, e.g. by analysing the way some Local Education Authorities (Birmingham, London) refused to introduce bussing. It studies the various forms that dispersal took in the dozen or so LEAs where it operated. Finally, it studies local mobilisations against dispersal by ethnic associations and individuals. It provides an analysis of debates around ‘ghetto schools’, ‘integration’, ‘separation’, ‘segregation’ where quite
often the US serves as a cognitive map to make sense of the English situation.

“Be an Other’s, Be an Other”
Chana Kronfeld

in The Full Severity of Compassion: The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: May 2016
Item type: chapter

A biography of Yehuda Amichai and the arc of his life in poetry is interwoven with a discussion of autobiography and its role in lending Amichai's avant-garde lyric a deceptively simple impression.