Unofficial histories

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Official histories tend to document the present and the past from the perspective of those with class, race, and gender privilege. Marginalized people rarely get to see their histories and realities recorded in a nuanced and complex manner that speaks to their reality. This issue introduces histories and stories that will be unfamiliar to many readers. The featured authors all partake in the project of nuancing historical memory. They document the struggles and triumphs of Latinos and Latinas whose history has been rendered silent or those whose current realities escape the attention of mainstream media and research. One essay sheds light on an early attempt to forge *Latinidad*, another reveals a shameful policy of sterilization that targeted Latino teens; two articles focus on gender, border politics, and the Bath Riots, and the last brings attention to mental health challenges faced by immigrant youth. Furthermore, the scholarship engages a variety of innovative and creative methodological approaches that productively center forgotten histories and untold stories.

Analysis of Latino voting patterns in the recent US presidential election made clear once again the reality that Latinos are not a monolithic community, and generalizations about the Latino vote are unhelpful for capturing the diversity of perspectives and political orientations among Latinos. In her contribution, Cristina Pérez Jiménez interrupts another misconception, that Latinos were first organized as a distinctive political constituency in the 1960s with the mobilization of Latinos around John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign. She recovers Los Amigos de Wallace, an organization that emerged in the 1940s in support of Henry Wallace, the Progressive Party's candidate for the 1948 presidential race. Although Wallace, a leftist candidate, garnered only 3% of the vote in that presidential election, his campaign brought together diverse progressive voices. Pérez Jiménez provides a fascinating history of an early mobilization of a national pan-ethnic Latino electoral bloc mid-century that enhances our understanding of Latinos as political actors. Amigos de Wallace organized Latinos through strategies such as the use of Spanish-language outreach, large rallies, and a radical platform that promised to advance the rights of Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, and other Latin American sectors. The power and reach

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of the Amigos de Wallace campaign was an early sign of the voting potential of a national Latino pan-ethnic community.

Another underresearched topic is the sterilization of Latino men. In recent decades groundbreaking research has highlighted Latinas' struggles to secure reproductive rights, but much less is known about the regulation and alteration of Latino men's reproductive lives. Natalie Lira fleshes out that history in her contribution, which exposes the history of state-directed sterilization of institutionalized young Mexican men in California in the early twentieth century. She uncovers how Mexican teens were confined to state institutions where they were branded as mentally inferior and prone to criminal behavior. The racialization and criminalization of these youth provided the justification for eugenic sterilization. Lira's analysis mines two interesting archives: the *Journal of Delinquency*, which provided the ideological rationale for sterilizing Mexican young men deemed feeble-minded and violent, and the sterilization requests records of Pacific Colony, an institution where young people were confined for an indeterminate period. This important scholarship helps us understand and contextualize practices of racialization and criminalization that continue to target young Latino men today.

Two of the papers focus on media representations of the rarely discussed Bath Riots. One of the more degrading and obscene practices of the of US Public Health Service authorities at the border was to strip Mexican workers and douse them with toxic chemicals to purportedly disinfect and delouse them. The 1917 Bath Riots, a little-known rebellion led by Carmelita Torres, a young Mexican woman, is the subject of two of the papers in this issue. Tala Khanmalek unpacks how newspaper reports of this incident constructed border-crossing Mexican women as disease carriers in need of surveillance and disinfection. Operationalizing Gloria Anzaldúa's concepts of "wild tongues" and *la facultad* as methodological tools for reading state archives, she uncovers an unofficial history and counterdiscourse to this highly racialized construction. She traces "the presence of archival absence" to discuss rumors that women were being photographed in the nude. She excavates historical archives for both what they say and what they don't say; Anzaldúan reading practices reveal both what is seen and what is unseen in archival histories constructed from a racialized perspective. Such methodological tools may be useful for approaching the many absences and perspectives buried in sanctioned official archives.

Christina Rhodes takes up the Bath Riots from another angle. She highlights the racist, ageist, and gendered depictions of Carmelita Torres in the 1917 press as a jumping-off point to interrogate contemporary media representations of young Latina activists today, including immigration activist Sophie Cruz, gun violence activist Emma Gonzalez, and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Rhodes finds commonalities in the ways these women are depicted in the present with the treatment Torres was offered in the past, but she also notes significant differences. While young Latinas continue to be mocked, infantilized, and sexualized, and their contributions trivialized, young Latina activists today assert their own rhetorical power to counter such disrespect and project powerful counternarratives.

In another study focused on young people, Josefina Flores Morales and Yuliana Garcia share their research on the well-being of undocumented college students. Morales and Garcia are interested in assessing the mental health of undocumented

students with and without Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status. Analyzing data from the 2014 UndocuScholars Project, which surveyed undocumented students around the country, they find that undocumented students with and without DACA status face high degrees of anxiety, although important differences among these populations can be linked to diverse factors such as gender, demographics, and socioeconomic status. This research reminds us that the repercussions of our retrograde immigration policies are borne on the hearts and minds of young Latinos and Latinas.

Rounding out this issue is a Vivencia about creative border-crossing adventures during the pandemic and book reviews highlighting noteworthy research projects.

Enjoy!

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