


Undocumented Youth Along the Borderlands of Texas: Resisting Modernity



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April 24, 2014

Geographic Context



Secondary Border



Ethnographic Study



- ✦ 30 Full Time UTPA Students
- ✦ Formal & Informal Interviews
- ✦ Spanish & English
- ✦ Estimated 600 undocumented students are enrolled at UTPA

Research Question



- ✦ How do undocumented citizen students understand their current and future sense of social place?
 - ✦ How did you get here?
 - ✦ How do you perceive your situation?
 - ✦ Why do you continue to attend school despite legal barriers for employment?
 - ✦ What are your expectations for the future?

Findings



- ✦ **Acculturated Goals Parallel to U.S. Born Peers.**
- ✦ **Rejected Pejorative Labels. (Alien, Illegals, Etc.)**
- ✦ **Utilized Multiple Networks for Access and Success in Higher Education. (Friends, Family, Counselors)**

Migration and Modernity



- ✦ **Habermas and Bauman characterizes modernity as a drive toward order, design, management, naming and segregation. (Zaretsky, 1992)**
- ✦ **Consequences:**
 - ✦ **Devaluing of Traditional Knowledge**
 - ✦ **Creation of the Other**
 - ✦ **Dependent on Inside/Outside Groups**

Migration and Modernity



What are we up against?

- ✦ **Global Capitalism**
- ✦ **Neoliberal Policies**
- ✦ **Rationalized Cultural Systems [Value Politics]**

Student Resistance



- ✦ **Challenging the Idea of Borders & Nation-State rationales.**
- ✦ **Creating Alliance with Multiple Social Global Movements.**
- ✦ **Creating New Identities of Resistance and Dignity.**