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A Place to Be: Brazilian, Guatemalan, and Mexican Immigrants in Florida's New Destinations edited by Philip J. Williams, Timothy Steigenga, and Manuel A. Vásquez

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process that allowed for the dam's continued existence. Therein lies the real strength of this book: it captures the promise and the paltriness of modern Florida, where an artificial lake can become a treasured "ecosystem" deserving protection, while the natural, the real, must languish despite the best efforts of the well-intentioned.

The Kirkpatrick Dam stands as one of the canal's most visible legacies, but Noll and Tegeder rightly seize upon another: the 107-mile Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway that sits as a linear oasis amid of sea of suburban sprawl. The story of the Cross Florida Barge Canal offers no easy answers, and Noll and Tegeder have done the state a great service by writing this book. It is hard to imagine a better telling of this tangled tale.

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A Place to Be: Brazilian, Guatemalan, and Mexican Immigrants in Florida's New Destinations. Edited by Philip J. Williams, Timothy Steigenga, and Manuel A. Vásquez (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2009. ix, 238 pp. Acknowledgments, tables, contributors, index. \$25.95, paper)

This excellent collection of essays on the lives and struggles of recent immigrants in Florida joins a new generation of scholarship that explores immigration in nonconventional destinations outside of gateway cities such as New York, Los Angeles, and Houston. The authors employ rigorous ethnographic, oral history, and social science methodologies to illuminate the experiences of people who come to work in Jupiter, Immokalee, and Deerfield Beach, among other towns. This book will be eminently useful for readers interested in understanding both the historical as well as contemporary dimensions of immigration in Florida.

A Place to Be places Florida squarely within the rapidly changing *Nuevo* New South. At the same time, authors build on seminal works by Alejandro Portes, Leon Fink, Alex Stepick, and other scholars who situate the region in a much broader framework of globalization and neoliberalism that is having a profound impact on the working class throughout the entire Americas. The underlying premise of *A Place to Be* is that we cannot understand the Sunshine State – or the state of the American Dream – in the twenty-first century without understanding the aspirations that Brazilian, Guatemalan, and Mexican immigrants bring here.

The essays in *A Place to Be* grow out of a collaborative and interdisciplinary research project initiated by scholars and immigration experts in Florida, Brazil, Guatemala, and Mexico. The works are organized thematically around three critical concepts: transnationalism; collective mobilization, and lived religion. The introduction is lucid and presents the major case studies of the book: Guatemalans

and Mexicans in Jupiter; Mexicans and Guatemalans in Immokalee; and Brazilians in Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach.

Offering much more than a study of immigration in local settings, the essay authors use a transnational approach that involves conducting ethnographic fieldwork in Florida as well as in Latin America in order to arrive at a nuanced understanding of the ways that immigrant groups forge solidarities, cultural identities, and a sense of community across national boundaries. *A Place to Be* gives readers the intellectual tools they need to avoid the pitfalls that plague much of the contemporary policy debates about immigration. The essays demonstrate that Florida's newest immigrants are anything but homogeneous. Indeed, there is an enormous diversity in occupational mobility, religious orientation, as well as gender and ethnic backgrounds – among other differences – that must be dealt with if one is to come to grips with the contemporary immigrant experience.

A Place to Be pays careful attention to historical context. The writers demonstrate that newer migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, and Brazil face an especially hostile social climate marked by the rise of anti-immigration groups such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform and other nativist organizations that are becoming increasingly active in Florida. Nevertheless, this is not a study that frames immigrants as victims. Working from a “globalization from below” framework, the authors unearth impressive examples of ethnic and cross-class mobilizations that have improved the lives of countless individuals in the Latina/o Diaspora.

The book will also appeal to students of social movements. In an intriguing comparative essay on Jupiter and Immokalee, Steigenga and Williams consider the role that the Pan-Mayan movement in Guatemala plays in immigrant collective action in Florida. The authors also explore the rise of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), which has become one of the best-known labor organizations in the South. The CIW is composed primarily of Mexican, Guatemalan, and Haitian farmworkers. The authors argue that this group has been able to achieve improved working conditions for agricultural workers through building alliances with student and religious organizations outside of the immediate region. In contrast to the CIW's multiethnic model, new immigrants in Jupiter have used the annual Fiesta Maya to create a model of community organizing more focused on identity and culture. The Fiesta Maya is essentially a restaging of La Fiesta de la Virgen de Candelaria in Guatemala, and it has led to the creation of local soccer leagues, religious organizations, and even a resource center that serves the needs of the local migrant community in Jupiter.

Much has changed since Edward R. Murrow's 1960 *Harvest of Shame*, a stunning documentary exposé of migrant farm labor conditions in Florida and other states. Immigrant workers now use cell phones, the Internet, and radio to create transnational networks of mutual aid and belonging throughout the hemisphere; however, the same individuals continue to face low wages, racism, and anti-immigrant hysteria in the Sunshine State. *A Place to Be* helps explain the challenges that today's

immigrants experience, their survival strategies, as well as the ways in which they are helping to build a new Florida.

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Category 5: The 1935 Labor Day Hurricane. By Thomas Neil Knowles (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2009. xxviii, 350 pp. Preface and acknowledgments, maps, prologue, B&W photographs, epilogue, exhibits, selected bibliography, illustration credits, index. \$29.95, cloth)

Hurricanes are among the most powerful forces found in nature. When they strike land, they reshape local geographies and terrains in a matter of hours. They also have profound economic and social consequences. The financial losses from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 were approximately \$100 billion. Massive population shifts took place as well, with hundreds of thousands of people leaving the Gulf Coast area and permanently relocating themselves in other parts of the country.

While storms such as Katrina are fascinating as natural events, they are even more interesting as forces that reshape local communities and, sometimes, even national politics. Thomas Neil Knowles, in *Category 5: The 1935 Labor Day Hurricane*, skillfully takes into account the natural events, social consequences, and politics in his comprehensive history of the Category 5, Labor Day Hurricane that struck the Florida Keys in 1935.

Born and raised in Key West, Knowles is a thorough historian who draws on a wide range of personal accounts, as well as newspapers and government documents, to chronicle the history of the storm. With winds estimated as high as 225 mph, the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane was the first recorded Category 5 hurricane in the United States. With its extraordinary winds and seventeen-foot storm surge, the storm caused the deaths of more than four hundred people.

Knowles's contribution to hurricane history includes not just his description of the storm and its immediate impact, but also the role played by the federal weather service in warning people of potential hurricane threats and the need to evacuate. Contained within Knowles's history of the storm is an equally interesting chronicle of the development of weather-forecasting services in South Florida and the beginnings of the less-than-perfect art of storm forecasting.

Knowles constructs much of his history by interviewing eyewitnesses who survived the storm. In doing so, he brings to life many aspects of life in the Florida Keys, its isolation and poverty, as well as its simplicity and closeness to the natural world.

While the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane will continue to be of interest to