

Sherene Seikaly Strikes Again



Before Sherene Seikaly came to UCSB, she won an Excellence in Teaching Award at the University of Cairo in 2014. Last year at this time, the UCSB Academic Senate named her the winner of the Plous Award, the highest academic honor conferred on a UCSB assistant professor. This

year, the Senate again honored her with a Distinguished Teaching Award, one of five awarded in the different divisions of the campus. Her citation reads in part: "Sherene Seikaly is an associate professor in the History Department, where her research focuses on capitalism, consumption, and development in the modern Middle East. Students commend her unique and innovative teaching style that allows space for open discussion. Instead of simply lecturing, Professor Seikaly challenges students to think critically and with nuance about historical evidence and historical narratives through techniques ranging from having students create interactive lessons for the class based on the readings to dividing even large lectures into groups to discuss questions about the readings and rushing "up and down the aisles with a microphone so students could voice opinions.' Students commented that her 'tireless efforts to include diverse voices empowered students to create a powerful learning experience where students also educate each other.' What is particularly striking is how Professor Seikaly manages to create a 'safe space for collective learning' in large courses dealing with controversial, politically and emotionally charged subjects, such as courses about Israel/ Palestine. Students also commend her 'unwavering dedication to her students,' from editing and commenting upon weekly student work without a TA to her extensive and in-demand office hours to learning the names of each and every student, personally

The 2018 Awards Ceremony

The McCune Conference Room in the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center was the venue for the History Department's 2018 Award Ceremony, thus beginning the commencement season that will culminate in the graduation of 86 majors in history, history of public policy, or medieval studies on June 17. The UCSB Alumni Association's director, John Lofthus, presented the A. Russell Buchanan Award for the Outstanding Senior to Penelope Fergison. Penny was nominated for this award by Alice O'Connor, and she also received the prize for the best paper written in the History of Public Policy senior thesis seminar. Its

title was "Head for the Hills: Race and Property Value in Oakland," and her adviser was Giuliana Perrone. In the paper, Penny traced local networks of activism and advocacy — and the dynamics of class, race, and gender that animated them. Historians long overlooked or mischaracterized these dynamics. Three history majors (Allison Graydon, Gordon Hahn, and Kaila



Fergison and Lofthus

Martinez) and one history of public policy major (Penny Fergison) were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society (founded in 1776).

Hailey Hoyt won the Stuart Bernath Prize for the best paper in a one-quarter undergraduate seminar. Written for Erika Rappaport's seminar on Food and World History, it was titled "Dirty Laundry: Starving in the Church" and explores the diverse ways in which the notorious Irish Magdalene Laundries sought to punish girls who were deemed sexually promiscuous with hard labor and inadequate food in 20th-century Ireland. Since 1998, the History Associates Board Prize

Chair's Column

By Sharon Farmer



I'll be stepping down as chair of the History Department on June 30. Little did I know when Beth Digeser handed me the keys to the chair's office in June, 2014, how tired my hand would grow from

signing forms - forms that play a key role in financing the research and studies of colleagues and students; or how much this job entails not just taking hold of the administrative reins of the largest department at UCSB, but also finding a way to help colleagues and students, both as individuals and as a community, deal with personal challenges, losses, and major tragedies. This year we have been especially touched by the Thomas Fire and the Montecito mudslides, by the tragic, untimely, loss of Alan Vu, by the deaths of our emeriti colleagues Otis Graham and Carl Harris, and, most recently, by the death of Hyung Il Pai of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, who used to hold a fifty-percent appointment in the History Department as well. Nor could I have anticipated how inspiring it would be to attend the retirement celebrations of colleagues Jack Talbott, Mary Furner and Toshi Hasegawa, whose present and former students painted such an inspiring image of the pivotal role that a major scholar and mentor can play in the life and aspirations of an undergraduate or graduate student.

I knew, long before I became chair, that ours is an especially distinguished department. But I have to say that I am particularly proud of the achievements of our department over the past three years. In two consecutive years History Department faculty, Sherene Seikaly and Terence Keel, won the Harold J. Plous Award, the highest award that our campus can

bestow on a junior faculty person. Sherene and Terence brought the total number of History faculty who have won that award up to eleven, which is more than twice the number of Plous Awards that have been granted to any other single department. Equally impressive is the fact that five of our faculty (Seikaly, Perrone, Sabra, Covo, and McCray) won prestigious year-long extramural fellowships for the 2018-2019 academic year, Beth Digeser was one of two faculty members chosen to lead this year's "Critical Issues in America" series, on "Changing Faces of U.S. Citizenship," and Stephan Miescher is one of the faculty who will be leading next year's Sawyer Seminar on "Energy Justice in Global Perspective." Last year, moreover, at the Humanities and Fine Arts undergraduate graduation ceremony, students from the History Department were honored with more campus-wide awards than were those from any other department. We've also seen, in the past year, a number of book awards for monographs by two of our faculty -- James Brooks (Mesa of Sorrows: A History of the Awat'ovi Massacre) and Erika Rappaport (A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World), and an article prize for Miroslava Chavez-Garcia's "Migrant Longing, Courtship, and Gendered Identity in the U.S. -Mexico Borderlands," which was published in the Western History Quarterly. I am honored to have served as your chair, and proud of the ways in which the department has begun to tackle questions like how to change our curriculum in order to meet the needs and interests of our increasingly diverse, and engaged, student body.

KUDOS TO FACULTY

Peter Alagona has been awarded a visiting fellowship for fall, 2018 at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, where he will be working on his next monograph, *Menagerie: People and Wildlife in the American City*. As recently as the 1970s, major US cities in the United States had little, if any, large wildlife. In the years since, however, wild animals, including many species once believed to require remote wilderness areas, have settled in cities in North America, Europe, East Asia, and elsewhere. How did this change occur? And what does it tell us about wildlife, people, and the cities we increasingly

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has recognized the best paper produced in the department's two-quarter Senior honors seminar. Megan Lucas's 78-page paper, "Bluestockings on Campus: Women at Smith College and Vassar College in the 19th century," was nominated by her mentor, Sarah Case. Megan used Smith and Vassar archives and tracked down letters and diaries written by a group of fifteen students to present a portrait of their activities and achievements.



A new award was instituted last year in memory of Amy Talbott Leach (Class of 1986). Her study of history at UCSB helped shape her understanding of the world and recognizes her commitment to social justice in the United States and abroad and her love of travel. The award supports undergraduate History majors who are taking part in the UC Education Abroad Program or the UC Washington Program. Batsheva Labowe-Stoll, who was nominated by Nelson Lichtenstein, will be studying this summer at the London School of Economics in UC's Education Abroad Program, and in the fall will begin a UCDC internship in Washington, D.C.

Ashlynn Deu Pree received the Marion Ramstad Scholarship, earmarked for juniors interested in European or Asian history. Marion Ramstad and her husband Dean were philanthropic former residents of Santa Barbara who were deeply involved with UCSB. Ashlynn was nominated by Luke Roberts for her excellent work in his Japanese history courses. The William E. Nida Scholarship serves future generations of History majors by encouraging talented undergraduates to pursue a career in teaching U.S. history. Ana Guerrero Gallegos, this year's Nida Scholar, was nominated by Paul Spickard. As a small child, Ana was brought by her parents, both manual laborers, to the US from Mexico. She has compiled a high GPA and, according to Spickard, has "the skills, the temperament, and the determination to achieve a PhD. Ana is one of the top five or six I have known in 44 years of university teaching (the others include

professors in the Ivy League and the UC system." Ana also won this year's Luis Leal Award for the most outstanding student in the social sciences.

Finally, so far as undergraduate awards are concerned, nine students completed the challenging two-quarter Senior Honors Seminar, which was taught this year by Harold Marcuse. This year's group consists of Avery Barboza, Sasha Bates, Zingha Foma, Jessica Kanter, Halley Thiel, Amanda Krstic, Megan Lucas, and Milo Schaberg, and Penelope Fergison.

In memory of the History Associates founding president, the Dick Cook Memorial Fellowship is bestowed on grad students who make extra efforts to contribute to the department and the needs of their students. This year's award goes to Will Thompson (Bernstein) whose doctoral research is on the intersection of religious belief, interactions with material objects, community dynamics, and the enactment of public policy in Tudor England. A highly skilled and imaginative teacher, Will has taught courses in which his students explored religious violence by means of a historical roleplaying approach to understand what Henry VIII and those around him experienced during the first phase of the English Reformation. Images from the flyer he created for his flyer advertising the course are below. It should thus come as no surprise that received the UCSB Graduate he Student



Association's Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2017-18. Nineteen graduate students received History Associates Fellowships for such purposes as travel to archives and conferences and other essential expenses: Francisco Beltran, Allison Bocchino, Sasha Coles, Julia Crisler, Maria Fedorova, Thomas Franke, Giulia Giamboni, Brian Griffith, Dana Hughes, Julie Johnson, Ibrahim Mansour, Chris McQuilkin, Rana Rasek, Chloe

Roberts, Susan Schmidt, Andreina Soto Segura, Shane Sprandio, Bryan Stevenson, James White.

Dana Hughes received the Wilbur Jacobs Prize



Stevenson, Soto, Johnson, Franke, Fedorova, Griffith, Coles, Giamboni, Hughes, Roberts

for the best work in early American history, Neil Johnson (Lichtenstein) garnered the Ellison Prize for the best graduate seminar paper for "Technique for Tomorrow': Business, Labor and the Postwar Debate over Automation, 1952-1975." The Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Fellowship goes to a student who returned to graduate study after pursuing family or other interests, and its recipient this year is Kashia Arnold (O'Connor) who is writing on trans-Pacific trade, globalization, and labor in US economic development from 1900-1937. The Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship for scholarship on the American West went to Rana Razek (Brooks). The Robert Kelley Fellowship recognizes an outstanding graduate student in one of the three fields of US history to which Kelley made important contributions. It goes to Nicole de Silva (Jacobson), and she is researching how international concerns shaped the consumption of household or personal goods among US women from 1914 to 1948.

Elizabeth Schmidt (Rappaport) won the Lawrence Badash Prize for outstanding work in the history of science and medicine for her paper titled "Very Tedious and Pompous Processes:' Gendered Medicinal Authority n 18th-Century-Britain." The late Stephen Hay, long our historian of India, created a grant to support graduate study of Islamic thought and culture. Ibrahim Mansour (Sabra) is the recipient; his research is on the doctrinal and ritual aspects of the Shadhili branch of the Sufi movement which was founded in the 13th century and became influential in various Islamic societies up to the present day. The Robert O. Collins Award rewards the best first publication by a graduate student, and it went to Mariel Aquino (Brooks). Her article on "A Panther Among Lions: Inaki Williams, Race and Basque Identity at Athletic Club Bilbao" appeared in *Studia Iberica et Americana*.

The Orozco Prize for the best paper in Latin American history by a graduate student in history or Latin American and Iberian history was won by Mario Tumen (Méndez). His paper analyzed the Atusparia rebellion in Peru in 1855, a movement long seen by historians as triggered by the head tax on indigenous peasants but on Tumen's showing was a push for land. The John Coleman Award for the best paper in international history was written by Mika Thornburg (Spickard) and titled "To Cross or Not to Cross, To Stay or Not to Stay: the Migration Motivations and Experiences of Shin-Issei, An Exploratory Study." The Michael Bransfield Prize celebrates the best paper or project in public history, and it was won by Nora Kassner (O'Connor) for her paper, "Moving History: Rethinking Migrations Past and Present at Santa Barbara's El Presidio State Park."

The Frank and Amanda Clark Frost Prize is for the best graduate paper or dissertation chapter in military, diplomatic, scientific, economic, or biographical history. The winner was Andrew Elrod (Lichtenstein) for his paper which asked "What



Kassner

Thornberg

Koford

Happened to Planning? and traced the changing guises of the debate about economic planning from the 1940s through the 1970s. First advocated as "industrial policy" on the Democratic left and then taken up by Republicans as a campaign to make US industry more competitive in the global arena, the outcome was failure in both periods. The Darcy Ruth Ritzau award for talented students with particular needs went to Maria Fedorova (Lichtenstein) and Brian Griffith (Fogu).

The J. Bruce Anderson Memorial Fellowship for

the outstanding teaching assistant in the History Department was garnered by Julie Johnson (Rappaport), and the Williams Endowed Graduate Fellowship went to Fang He (Zhou). David Baillargeon (Rappaport) received the Mayberry Award for overall scholarly excellence. Caitlin Koford (Farmer) got the Esmé Frost Fellowship for students of pre-modern European history, and the C. Warren Hollister Fellowship in medieval European history went to Susan Schmidt (Lansing). Rana Razek (Brooks) got the Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship for excellent work on the American West, and the Schlaikjer-McIntyre Fellowships for work in the history of Japan went to Travis Seifman (Roberts) and Kandra Politis (McDonald). The DeConde-Burns Prize for outstanding students of U.S. foreign relations was given to Mika Thornburg (Spickard). Shane Sprandio (Lansing) got the Ken Mouré and Sara Norquay Award, and the new Patricia Cohen Endowed Graduate Fellowship was awarded to Nora Kassner (O'Connor).

The dispensation of all this largesse produced an ebullience which made the ensuing reception a joyous and noisy occasion indeed.

Good News from Alumni

Beth Brownson (Gallagher, 2008) has been promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Rudy Gueverra (Spickard, 2007), associate professor at Arizona State University, has is one of two recipients of a 2018 Ford Foundation Senior Fellowship. He will use it to complete his next book, titled "Aloha Compadre: Latinxs in Hawai'i, 1832-2010. Although Latinx make up nearly 10% of the state's population, they have received little scholarly attention because, as Gueverra puts it, "their presence has been rendered invisible by the tourist industry and the larger local population."

Henry Maar (Lichtenstein, 2015), who is teaching at CSU-Northridge, delivered the keynote address on the Nuclear Freeze movement and American popular culture at UCSB's Center for Cold War Studies and International History Graduate Colloquium in April2018. Eight UCSB grad students from several departments also delivered papers, including Mattie Webb (who also organized the symposium).

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share on this urbanizing planet? Alagona's book will address these questions from the perspectives of history, geography, ecology, anthropology, and other fields, with key lessons for science and conservation in the Anthropocene.

Patrick McCray has received the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur Molella Distinguished Fellowship (2018-2019) for his project "Artists as Inventors, Inventors as Artists" which aims to broaden our understanding of who does inventing and who acts as an innovator. McCray will also use the fellowship time to finish a book manuscript for The MIT Press called Art Re-Wired which examines collaborations between artists and engineers since the 1960s..

Giuliana Perrone has received a UC Presidents' Research Fellowships in the Humanities which will enable her to spend the 2018-2019 academic year working on her book project, *Reconstructing the Law: Slavery in Post-Emancipation Southern Courts.* It tells the story of "legal Reconstruction," which was the process by which all Southerners, including freed people, litigated the meaning and implications of emancipation. She argues that though the law recognized black freedom, true abolition remained elusive. Post-emancipation jurisprudence left legal and social assumptions about race and slavery embedded – and actionable – in American law.

The winner of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies biennial prize for the best book in British history was **Erika Rappaport**'s *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (Princeton University Press, 2017).

Grad Students Rock

David Baillargeon (Rappaport), now finishing his dissertation titled "A Burmese Wonderland': British World Mining and the Making of Colonial Burma," has accepted a three year postdoctoral position at the University of Nottingham. His title will be "College Fellow," and he will be leading a segment of an interdisciplinary collaborative ERC funded research project entitled "Cultures of Occupation in Twentieth Century Asia."

Brian Griffith (Fogu) has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research in Italy on his dissertation, "Bacchus's Blackshirt: Winemaking

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and Making Italians in Fascist Italy." He will be conducting archival research in Rome (where he and his family will reside for most of 2018-19 in Rome), and he will also be interviewing vintners in Tuscany.

Laura Hooton (Spickard) will in July begin her term as the Post-Doctoral Fellow in American History and Diversity Studies at the United State Military Academy at West Point. Her chapter, titled "Little Liberia, the African American Agricultural Colony in Baja California," appeared in *Farming Across Borders: A Transnational History of the North American West* (Texas A & M University, Press, October 2017).

Stephanie Seketa (Rappaport) gave a paper on "Corporate Citizenship in Wartime: Jewish Immigrant Businesses and Economic Nationalism in Britain, 1870s-1920s at the Economics and Business History Society conference in Finland early in June 2018. Her paper analyzed how Jewish immigrantowned firms redefined the imagination and material world of modern Britain and built integrated social and economic systems which propelled the modern economy while being targeted as foreigners within their own country.

Lizzie Schmidt (Rappaport) is the recipient of a short-term fellowship at the Winterthur Library in Delaware where she will study 18th-century account books of merchants and their families in North America for her dissertation on foods and recipe books and what they can tell us about what people were nostalgic for and what they considered luxuries and necessities.

Will Thompson (Bernstein) has garnered a short -term fellowship to spend August at the Huntington Library to further his research into the grassroots reception of the Reformation in East Anglia during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI in Tudor England.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU: Send letters to: Editor, Historia, Dept. of History, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410 (or e-mail to: jsmcgee @ history.ucsb.edu).

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Bianca Murillo (Miescher, 2009), now associate professor at CSU-Dominguez Hills, published her first book, *Market Encounters: Consumer Cultures in Twentieth-Century Ghana* (Ohio University Press in its New African History series). On May 3, she gave a talk at UCSB about her book; a book signing session followed.



Thompson

Poggo

Scopas Poggo (Collins, 1999), associate professor at Ohio State University at Mansfield, has received the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2017-18 there. His first book, *The First Sudanese Civil War: Africans, Arabs, and Israelis in the Southern Sudan, 1955-1972,* was published by Palgrave McMillan in 2009.

Holly Roose (Spickard), who completed her dissertation last June has decided to eschew professorial opportunities and take a permanent post as Director of UCSB's Promise Scholar Program. The program guides a couple of hundred students who have extremely high financial need through their university careers. Holly has been working in the program for over a year and will now be its permanent director. She will also be working on designing and creating a retention program for at-risk students.

Warren Wood (Cohen, 2011) has published an article in the *Southern California Quarterly* titled "Fraud and the California State Census of 1852: Power and Demographic Distortion in Gold Rush California" (Vol. 100, No.1). He demonstrates that San Francisco County inflated its percentage of white males by 30% and the overall population by 25% in order to increase its political power in relation to other parts of the state.

Ancient China in a Eurasian Context

By Tony Barbieri-Low

Professor of Chinese History, Tony Barbieri-Low, organized a two-day conference (April 20-21), inviting leading scholars from around the world and graduate students from UCSB, UCLA, McGill, and Chicago to present on the theme of "Ancient China in a Eurasian Context." Ancient China is often studied in isolation from the cultures of West Asia and Central Asia, so the purpose of this conference was to explore comparisons and connections that would draw China into the larger framework of Eurasia to better understand the development of this vibrant civilization.

Some papers utilized a comparative methodology to examine historical phenomenon in two ancient civilizations. For example, Jordan Christopher (PhD student, McGill) compared the system of diplomatic hostage-taking in Ancient Greece and Ancient China, and specifically looked at the case of Phillip of Macedon's time as a hostage in Thebes and Ying Yiren's (father of the First Emperor) time as a hostage in Zhao. Dou Lei (PhD student, UCSB) compared the funerary inventory lists found in ancient Chinese tombs to the offering lists utilized in Old and Middle Kingdom funerals in Egypt. He Yanxiao (PhD student, University of Chicago) compared Chinese and Greek accounts of the pivotal Bactrian region in Northern Afghanistan, which was an important place of cultural interaction. Professor Barbieri-Low examined the problem of reforming mature empires by looking at two controversial reformers, Akhenaten of New Kingdom Egypt and Wang Mang from late Han Dynasty China.

Other papers employed archaeological, historical, and art historical methodologies to look at connections across Eurasia. The keynote speaker, Dame Professor Jessica Rawson of Oxford, examined how contact with the Central Asian steppe, through an "arc" of intermediary societies, determined the particular form of early empires like the Qin. Professor Duan Qingbo of Northwest University in Xi'an followed up on Saturday the 21st with a provocative lecture (in Chinese) in which he traced nearly a dozen material and institutional features of the Qin Empire to their origins in the Persian Empire of Darius and Xerxes. Lothar von Falkenhausen added to this theme by exploring a list of cultural features that ap-

peared to have diffused to China from the West during the 1st millennium BCE. PhD candidate, Wen Chenghao (UCLA) brought out the specifics of one of these items by exploring how the interaction of "trade diasporas" in northwest China first brought the technology of metallurgy into the area. Q.Z. Lau (PhD student, UCSB) looked at how Buddhist relics and holy persons were used as objects of diplomatic exchange and power in post-Han Eastern Asia. Finally, Professor Peter S. Wells of the University of Minnesota shifted the perspective of the conference by exploring Iron Age Europe and its connections to the East. Overall, the conference was a major success, stimulated great questions from the audience, and encouraged all those in attendance to reexamine their assumptions in the study of ancient civilizations, East and West.

New Faculty Books

Red and Yellow, Black (Rutgers and Brown University Press, 2017) was co-edited by Paul Spickard, Rudy P. Guevarra, Jr., and Joanne L. Rondilla. It presents essays by twelve contribring butors which together life stories and thoughtful analysis of the social, political, and psychological dynamics that exist for mixed race people who are not part



white but rather have links to two or more peoples of color (such as Chinese and Mexican, Asian and Black, Native American and African American, South Asian and Filipino, Black and Latino/a). Kevin Johnson, Dean of the UC Davis School of Law, said that its focus "on mixed race people of color, as opposed to mixed race white/people of color, is truly cutting edge." The authors, who include UCSB's Veronica Castillo-Munoz and Terence Keel and former UCSB students Rudy Gueverra, Rebecca Romo, Ingrid Dineen-Wimberly and Lily Anne Y. Welty Tamai, address questions arising from the meanings and communication of racial identities in dual or multiple minority situations. The editors, in contributions, highlight theoretical their the implications of this fresh approach in racial studies.

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greeting them during the first class meeting." As if all this were not enough, Seikaly has also been awarded a UC President's Faculty Fellowship for 2018-2019. In her new book project, "From Baltimore to Beirut: On the Question of Palestine," she will explore the relationship between land and colonialism through the story of a Palestinian man who was both a colonial officer and a colonized subject, an enslaver and a refugee. His movement from 19th-century Baltimore and Sudan to his immobility in 20th-century in Lebanon places Palestine in a global history of race, capital, slavery, and dispossession.

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In Leaders of Their Race: Educating Black and White Women in the New South (University of Illinois Press, 2017), Sarah Case shows how two Georgia schools—the Lucy Cobb Institute in Athens and the Spelman Seminary in Atlanta prepared women to modernize and reunify the South after the civil war. Focusing on the period from 1880-1925, Case explores how race, gender, sexuality, and region worked in these institutions to shape education. Her comparative approach reveals how female education embodied the complex ways racial and gender identity functioned at the time. As Case writes, these



groups saw their "new expectations in specifically race-conceived ways." At both institutions, anxiety about female sexuality and respectability prevailed. Case also follows the lives of the women as adult teachers, alumnae, and activists who drew on their education to negotiate the New South's economic and social upheavals. According to one reviewer, Case demonstrates how these schools "created new opportunities for white and black women and gave them an entry to become public authorities in addressing societal ills."

Miroslava Chavez-Garcia's *Migrant Longing: Letter Writing Across the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018) is based on a personal collection of more than 300 letters between her parents and other family members. Chavez-Garcia explores the hope, fear, and longing migrants experienced in their quotidian lives on both



sides of the border. The letters afford a rich insights into the emotional, personal, and social lives of ordinary Mexican men and women as they sought to maintain their sense of humanity when living in *el norte* or remaining in Mexico and coping with the loss of loved ones who sometimes left for long periods or simply never returned. With its richly detailed account ranging from the Mexican Revolution of the 1910s to the emergence of Silicon Valley in the late 1960s, this book opens a new window onto the social, economic, political, and cultural developments of the era and recovers the human agency of much maligned migrants in our society now.

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