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SALES INFORMATION, INSIDE BACK COVER
THE NATURE OF DESERT NATURE
EDITED BY GARY PAUL NABHAN

Illuminating essays on the desert by leading voices from the arts and sciences

In this refreshing collection, one of our best writers on desert places, Gary Paul Nabhan, challenges traditional notions of the desert. Beautiful, reflective, and at times humorous, Nabhan’s extended essay “The Nature of Desert Nature” reveals the complexity of what a desert is and can be. He passionately writes about what it is like to visit a desert and what living in a desert looks like when viewed through a new frame, turning age-old notions of the desert on their heads.

Nabhan invites a prism of voices—friends, colleagues, and advisors from his more than four decades of study of deserts—to bring their own perspectives. Scientists, artists, desert contemplatives, poets, and writers bring the desert into view and investigate why these places compel us to walk through their sands and beneath their cacti and acacia. We observe the spines and spears, stings and songs of the desert anew. Unexpected. Surprising. Enchanting. Like the desert itself, each essay offers renewed vocabulary and thoughtful perceptions.

The desert inspires wonder. Attending to history, culture, science, and spirit, The Nature of Desert Nature celebrates the bounty and the significance of desert places.

GARY PAUL NABHAN is the Kellogg Endowed Chair at the University of Arizona’s Southwest Center. He is author or editor of more than thirty books, including Enduring Seeds, Gathering in the Desert, and Food from the Radical Center. Honored with a MacArthur “Genius” Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, the John Burroughs Medal for nature writing, and other awards, Nabhan has lived in the desert for more than forty years.

“We’ve been slow to warm to deserts as places worth learning and caring about. This original and probing book, led by one of the pioneers in our understanding of desert ecology and culture, should lay to rest the notion that there isn’t much to see (or feel) in these lands of little rain. A bracing and deeply thoughtful collection that should appeal to desert rationalists and romantics everywhere.”

—Ben A. Minteer, author of The Fall of the Wild: Extinction, De-Extinction, and the Ethics of Conservation

Contributors

Thomas M. Antonio  Paul Dayton  Rubén Martínez  Stephen Trimble
Homero Aridjis  Alison Hawthorne Deming  Curt Meine  Octaviana V. Trujillo
James Aronson  Father David Denny  Alberto Mellado Moreno  Benjamin T. Wilder
Tessa Bielecki  Exequiel Ezcurra  Paul Mirocha  Andy Wilkinson
Alberto Búrquez  Thomas Lowe Fleischner  Gary Paul Nabhan  Ofelia Zepeda
Francisco Cantú  Jack Loeffler  Ray Perotti
Douglas Christie  Ellen MacMahon  Larry Stevens
A DESERT FEAST
CELEBRATING TUCSON’S CULINARY HERITAGE

CAROLYN NIETHAMMER
FOREWORD BY JOHNATHAN MABRY

Celebrating the people and cuisines that define Tucson as a world culinary capital

Drawing on thousands of years of foodways, Tucson cuisine blends the influences of Indigenous, Mexican, mission-era Mediterranean, and ranch-style cowboy food traditions. This book offers a food pilgrimage, where stories and recipes demonstrate why the desert city of Tucson became America’s first UNESCO City of Gastronomy.

Both family supper tables and the city’s trendiest restaurants feature native desert plants and innovative dishes incorporating ancient agricultural staples. Award-winning writer Carolyn Niethammer deliciously shows how the Sonoran Desert’s first farmers grew tasty crops that continue to influence Tucson menus and how the arrival of Roman Catholic missionaries, Spanish soldiers, and Chinese farmers influenced what Tucsonans ate.

White Sonora wheat, tepary beans, and criollo cattle steaks make Tucson’s cuisine unique. In A Desert Feast, you’ll see pictures of kids learning to grow food at school, and you’ll meet the farmers, small-scale food entrepreneurs, and chefs who are dedicated to growing and using heritage foods. It’s fair to say, “Tucson tastes like nowhere else.”

CAROLYN NIETHAMMER learned to love and understand the West growing up in small-town northern Arizona. She has spent her life writing about the foods and people of the Southwest in award-winning ethnobotanies, cookbooks, and biographies. She leads Tucson gastronomy tours covering everything from edible wild plants to the latest farm-to-table restaurant offerings with heritage ingredients. The most recent of her five cookbooks is Cooking the Wild Southwest: Delicious Recipes for Desert Plants.

“Indispensable, Niethammer’s book is fascinating, taking us through the cultural and historical significance from 4,000 years ago at the base of “A” Mountain to the modern-day celebration of artisan growers and chefs who have all been a part of making Tucson a UNESCO World Heritage site. This is not a book to finish in one sitting, but something to be savored along with the book’s many recipes, time and time again.”

—Barry Infuso, President, Chefs Association of Southern Arizona

“Carolyn Niethammer is well-known for her writings on southwestern native foods and cultures, and she does not disappoint with her wonderful book that is a major contribution focusing on the important subject of healthful eating in the context of place. She provides a most interesting description of Tucsonans and the Presidio’s rich history, helping us understand their commitment to their food and cultural heritage that earned the city’s title of Creative City of Gastronomy by UNESCO. Niethammer also provides a synthesis and description of places and people one can easily access to acquire foods characteristic of this magnificent region.”

—Wendy C. Hodgson, author of Food Plants of the Sonoran Desert
Poets have been to space—they travel there with words

Beyond Earth’s Edge: The Poetry of Spaceflight is a trailblazing anthology of poetry that spans from the dawn of the space age to the imagined futures of the universe. The anthology offers a fascinating record of both national mindsets and private perspectives as poets grapple with the promise and peril of U.S. space exploration across decades and into the present. Tracing an arc of literary skepticism during the Apollo era and before to a more curious, and even hopeful, stance today, Beyond Earth’s Edge includes diverse perspectives from poets such as Robert Hayden, Rae Armantrout, N. Scott Momaday, Adrienne Rich, Tracy K. Smith, Ray Bradbury, May Swenson, Pablo Neruda, and many other engaging poetic voices.

Beyond Earth’s Edge vividly captures the violence of blastoff, the wonders seen by Hubble, and the trajectories of exploration to Mars and beyond through a wide array of lyric celebrations, somber meditations, accessible narratives, concrete poems, and new forms of science fiction. With the dawn of the New Space movement, continued interest in Mars, and renewed excitement about returning to the Moon, Beyond Earth’s Edge is a giant leap toward bridging poetry and science.

JULIE SWARSTAD JOHNSON is the author of Pennsylvania Furnace, editor’s choice selection for the Unicorn Press first book series, as well as the chapbooks Orchard Light and Jumping the Pit. She has served as artist in residence at Gettysburg National Military Park. She lives in Tucson and works at the University of Arizona Poetry Center.

CHRISTOPHER COKINOS is the author of three books of literary nonfiction: Hope Is the Thing with Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds; The Fallen Sky: An Intimate History of Shooting Stars; and Bodies, of the Holocene. In 2016, the University of Arizona Press published his co-edited anthology, The Sonoran Desert: A Literary Field Guide, which won a Southwest Book of the Year award. Cokinos’s poetry collection, The Underneath, was awarded the New American Press Poetry Prize. He lives in Tucson and is an associate professor at the University of Arizona.

“When math and prose won’t move our leadership, we hope to nudge them with poetry and song. Delightful and inspiring—kudos to the editors. Now I am recharged and ready to go back to my drawing board. No coffee needed. Time to shape and tame and ride those sturdy steel fire-breathing dragons to take us to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Oh, how I wish to touch and smell the pink snows on Titan...”

—Madhu Thangavelu, University of Southern California

“Beyond Earth’s Edge is an expansive anthology that takes on the topics of space, spaceflight, outer space, otherworldliness, and what it means to be inhabitants of Planet Earth imagining a world beyond. With an incredible aesthetic range and consistent sense of wonder, this anthology rekindles the imaginative power of poetry that both helps us see beyond ourselves and helps us see ourselves more clearly.”

—Mathew Shenoda, author of Somewhere Else
HORSEFLY DRESS
POEMS

HEATHER CAHOON

Witness, lament, and hope in poetic form

Horsefly Dress is a meditation on the experience and beauty of suffering, questioning its triggers and ultimate purpose through the lens of historical and contemporary interactions and complications of Sêlíst, Qlispé, and Christian beliefs. Heather Cahoon’s collection explores dark truths about the world through first-person experiences, as well as the experiences of her family and larger tribal community. As a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Cahoon crafts poems that recount traditional stories and confront Coyote’s transformation of the world, including his decision to leave certain evils present, such as cruelty, greed, hunger, and death.

By weaving together stories of Cahoon’s family and tribal community with those of Coyote and his family, especially Coyote’s daughter, Horsefly Dress, the interactions and shared experiences show the continued relevance of traditional Sêlíst and Qlispé culture to contemporary life. Rich in the imagery of autumnal foliage, migrating birds, and frozen landscapes, Horsefly Dress calls forth the sensory experience of grief and transformation. As the stories and poems reveal, the transformative powers associated with the human experience of loss belong to the past, present, and future, as do the traditional Salish-Pend d’Oreille stories that create the backbone of this intricate collection.

HEATHER CAHOON, PhD, earned her MFA in poetry from the University of Montana, where she was the Richard Hugo Scholar. She has received a Potlatch Fund Native Arts Grant and Montana Arts Council Artist Innovation Award. Her chapbook, Elk Thirst, won the Merriam-Frontier Prize. She is an assistant professor of Native American studies at the University of Montana. She is from the Flathead Reservation and is a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

“Heather Cahoon is a descendent of Horsefly Dress, a daughter of Coyote. Horsefly Dress is a book of poems that urges us to connect with the brutality and hope of the past and the future through memories, dreams, visions, and meditations.”

—Natalie Peeterse, author of Dreadful: Luminosity

“Horsefly Dress is a book of poems that urges us once again of the wisdom in our elders’ storytelling, the relevancy to our here and now, our always. Cahoon’s is the avian language of the thoughtful Plains poets.”

—James Thomas Stevens, author of A Bridge Dead in the Water
A GOOD MAP OF ALL THINGS
A PICARESQUE NOVEL

ALBERTO ÁLVARO RÍOS

A community brought to life by an award-winning author

In Alberto Álvaro Ríos’s new picaresque novel, momentous adventure and quiet connection brings twenty people to life in a small town in northern Mexico. *A Good Map of All Things* is home to characters whose lives are interwoven but whose stories are their own, adding warmth and humor to this continually surprising communal narrative. The stories take place in the mid-twentieth century, in the high desert near the border—a stretch of land generally referred to as the Pimería Alta—an ancient passage through the desert that connected the territory of Tucson in the north and Guaymas and Hermosillo in the south. The United States is off in the distance, a little difficult to see, and, in the middle of the century, not the only thing to think about. Mexico City is somewhere to the south, but nobody can say where and nobody has ever seen it.

Ríos has created a whimsical yet familiar town, where brightly unique characters love fiercely and nurture those around them. The people in *A Good Map of All Things* have secrets and fears, successes and happiness, winters and summers. They are people who do not make the news, but who are living their lives for the long haul, without lotteries or easy answers or particular luck. Theirs is the everyday, with its small but meaningful joy. Whether your heart belongs to a small town in Mexico or a bustling metropolis, Alberto Álvaro Ríos has crafted a book that is overflowing with comfort, warmth, and the familiar embrace of a tightly woven community.

A finalist for the National Book Award and the recipient of the Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award, ALBERTO ÁLVARO RÍOS has taught at Arizona State University since 1982. He is Arizona’s inaugural poet laureate, a recent chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, and director of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. Ríos’s latest collection of poems is *Not Go Away Is My Name*, preceded by *A Small Story About the Sky*, *The Dangerous Shirt*, and *The Theater of Night*, winner of the PEN/Beyond Margins Award.

“The people in this fictional town are weird, funny, beautiful, and they do crazy things. They remind me of my own family, and I can’t help but to love them. Alberto Ríos is a great storyteller.”

—Daniel Chacón, author of *Kafka in a Skirt*

“Ríos takes us to a home we’ve never been properly introduced to until now. Community activates through the sum of its parts, and though not always predictable as the stars, each of Ríos’s characters’ contributions is as necessary as the sun.”

—Bryan Allen Fierro, author of *Dodger Blue Will Fill Your Soul*
A MARRIAGE OUT WEST
THERESA AND FRANK RUSSELL’S EXPLORATIONS IN ARIZONA, 1900–1903

THERESA RUSSELL, NANCY J. PAREZO, AND DON D. FOWLER

An insightful portrait of anthropology in the early 1900s and a unique husband-wife team at its heart

A Marriage Out West is an intimate biographical account of two fascinating figures of twentieth-century archaeology. Frances Theresa Peet Russell, an educator, married Harvard anthropologist Frank Russell in June 1900. They left immediately on a busman’s honeymoon to the Southwest. Their goal was twofold: to travel to an arid environment to quiet Frank’s tuberculosis and to find archaeological sites to support his research.

During their brief marriage, the Russells surveyed almost all of Arizona Territory, traveling by horse over rugged terrain and camping in the back of a Conestoga wagon in harsh environmental conditions. Nancy J. Parezo and Don D. Fowler detail the grit and determination of the Russells’ unique collaboration over the course of three field seasons. Delivering the first biographical account of Frank Russell’s life, this book brings detail to his life and work from childhood until his death in 1903. Parezo and Fowler analyze the important contributions Theresa and Frank made to the burgeoning field of archaeology and Akimel O’odham (Pima) ethnography. They also offer never-before-published information on Theresa’s life after Frank’s death and her subsequent career as a professor of English literature and philosophy at Stanford University.

In 1906 Theresa Russell published In Pursuit of a Graveyard: Being the Trail of an Archaeological Wedding Journey, a twelve-part serial in Out West magazine. Theresa’s articles constituted an experiential narrative based on field journals and remembrances of life in the northern Southwest. The work offers both a biography and a seasonal field narrative that emphasized personal experiences rather than traditional scientific field notes. Included in A Marriage Out West, Theresa’s writing provides an invaluable participant’s perspective of early 1900s American archaeology and ethnography and life out West.

THERESA RUSSELL (1873–1936) was a noted scholar of satire in British Victorian novels and American utopianism, especially well-known for her many analyses of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. A professor of English and philosophy at Stanford University from 1906 to 1936, she wrote five well-received books and dozens of articles in addition to teaching and mentoring thousands of students.

NANCY J. PAREZO is a professor emerita of American Indian studies at the University of Arizona. In addition to teaching at the institution for almost forty years, she was curator of ethnology at the Arizona State Museum.

DON D. FOWLER is the Mamie Kleberg Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Historic Preservation, Emeritus, at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). In 2019 the Don Frazier & Don Fowler Endowed Chair in Archaeology was established at UNR in his honor.
RENEWING OUR RIVERS
STREAM CORRIDOR RESTORATION IN DRYLAND REGIONS

EDITED BY MARK K. BRIGGS & W. R. OSTERKAMP

Dryland river restoration for riparian renewal

Our rivers are in crisis and the need for river restoration has never been more urgent. Water security and biodiversity indices for all of the world’s major rivers have declined due to pollution, diversions, impoundments, fragmented flows, introduced and invasive species, and many other abuses.

Developing successful restoration responses are essential. Renewing Our Rivers addresses this need head on with examples of how to design and implement stream-corridor restoration projects. Based on the experiences of seasoned professionals, Renewing Our Rivers provides stream restoration practitioners the main steps to develop successful and viable stream restoration projects that last. Ecologists, geomorphologists, and hydrologists from dryland regions of Australia, Mexico, and the United States share case studies and key lessons learned for successful restoration and renewal of our most vital resource.

The aim of this guidebook is to offer essential restoration guidance that allows a start-to-finish overview of what it takes to bring back a damaged stream corridor. Chapters cover planning, such emerging themes as climate change and environmental flow, the nuances of implementing restoration tactics, and monitoring restoration results. Renewing Our Rivers provides community members, educators, students, natural resource practitioners, experts, and scientists broader perspectives on how to move the science of restoration to practical success.

MARK K. BRIGGS is a stream ecologist with more than twenty-five years of experience restoring streams in the western United States and northern Mexico. He led binational restoration efforts along the Rios Grande and Bravo and the Colorado River. He is the author of Riparian Ecosystem Recovery in Arid Lands. Briggs is an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona and sits on the editorial board of the international journal Restoration Ecology.

W. R. OSTERKAMP (1939–2020) was a research hydrologist, emeritus, for the U.S. Geological Survey. His research included bottomland dynamics, interactions of vegetation with water and sediment, channel islands, and fluvial processes of arid areas. He published articles on geomorphology, hydrology, geology, sediment movement, ecology, water quality, archaeology, and the economic benefits of earth-science and sediment networks.

“The practitioners of restoration science arrive at the profession from many disciplinary and experiential directions. Proper orientation concerning the appropriate spatial and temporal scales of analysis, as well as basic hydrologic processes, are essential to the development of efficient restoration designs. Further, the design must be implemented, monitored, and maintained to achieve the environmental goals. This book provides a foundation for entry into and progress through the restoration of stream corridors in dryland areas. For new practitioners, this book provides a guide through the complexities of stream corridor restoration.”

—Terrence J. Toy, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Denver
DECOLONIZING LATINX MASCULINITIES

EDITED BY ARTURO J. ALDAMA AND FREDERICK LUIS ALDAMA

A call for resilience, change, and compassion

Latinx hypersexualized lovers or kingpin predators pulsate from our TVs, smartphones, and Hollywood movie screens. Tweets from the executive office brand Latinxs as bad-hombre hordes and marauding rapists and trafickers. A-list Anglo historical figures like Billy the Kid haunt us with their toxic masculinities. These are the themes creatively explored by the eighteen contributors in Decolonizing Latinx Masculinities.

Together they explore how legacies of colonization and capitalist exploitation and oppression have created toxic forms of masculinity that continue to suffocate our existence as Latinxs. And while the authors seek to identify all cultural phenomena that collectively create reductive, destructive, and toxic constructions of masculinity that traffic in misogyny and homophobia, they also uncover the many spaces—such as Xicanx-Indígena languages, resistant food cultures, music performances, and queer Latinx rodeo practices—where Latinx communities can and do exhale healing masculinities.

With unity of heart and mind, the creative and the scholarly, Decolonizing Latinx Masculinities opens wide its arms to all non-binary, decolonial masculinities today to grow a stronger, resilient, and more compassionate new generation of Latinxs tomorrow.

ARTURO J. ALDAMA is an associate professor and chair of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and affiliate faculty in Gender and Women's Studies.

FREDERICK LUIS ALDAMA is University Distinguished Professor, Arts & Humanities Distinguished Professor of English, University Distinguished Scholar, and Alumni Distinguished Teacher at The Ohio State University.

LATINX STUDIES

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ALSO AVAILABLE:

“Decolonizing Latinx Masculinities bristles with original insights and illuminating takes on an impressive array of expressive culture. A refreshing and pathfinding collection that leaves behind exhausted considerations of Latinx masculinity, the essays collected here focus our attention on the ever-shifting terms of debate concerning racialized genders and sexualities.”

—Richard T. Rodríguez, author of Next of Kin: The Family in Chicano/a Cultural Politics

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CULTURA Y CORAZÓN
A DECOLONIAL METHODOLOGY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH

ROSA D. MANZO, LISCETH BRAZIL-CRUZ, YVETTE G. FLORES, AND HECTOR RIVERA-LOPEZ

A new approach to conducting research and social justice work

Cultura y Corazón is a research approach and practice that is rooted in the work of Latinx and Chicanx scholars and intellectuals. The book documents best practices for Community Based and Participatory Action Research (CBPAR), which is both culturally attuned and scientifically demonstrated. This methodology takes a decolonial approach to engaging community members in the research process and integrates critical feminist and indigenous epistemologies.

Cultura y Corazón presents case studies from the authors’ work within the fields of education and health. It offers key strategies to working in partnership with marginalized Latinx communities that are grounded in deep respect for the communities’ cultures and lived experiences. This book is intended for students, researchers, and practitioners who want to work with vulnerable populations through a community-based approach that truly respects and integrates culture, values, and funds of knowledge.

ROSA MANZO is an interdisciplinary researcher focused on addressing health and education disparities in rural communities. LISCETH BRAZIL-CRUZ in an interdisciplinary researcher focused on understanding access to health and education in Latinx communities. YVETTE G. FLORES is a clinical psychologist, professor, and researcher, who bridges psychology and Chicanx/Latinx health. HECTOR RIVERA-LOPEZ is a clinical psychologist with more than forty-seven years of experience.

“This book is a significant and unique contribution to social science research on Latinx populations. Scholarship in methodological approaches to community engagement tends not to engage with intangibles in the research process like pouring one’s ‘corazón’ into the community that one is working with and getting to know the culture(s) in a way that fosters trust and elevates the voices of community members. This makes this book very unique in its willingness to ‘go there,’ to speak of those things that truly create partnerships for the betterment of the lives of marginalized people, empowering them to implement their strengths and to take charge of their healing and growth.”

—Rebecca Martinez, University of Missouri

“This cultura y Corazón is a book we have all been waiting for. Deliberate in its descriptions of how to do ethical community engaged participatory research, the authors provide an excellent model for anyone serious about changing the way we work WITH communities of color. This is mandatory reading for researchers who are invested in providing a symbiotic relationship with communities of color and who no longer abide by helicopter culture-vulture approaches in research relationships.”

—Sujey Vega, author of Latino Heartland: Of Borders and Belonging in the Midwest
Inspiring and practical ways to share Anzaldúa’s transformative theories

Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa—theorist, Chicana, feminist—famously called on scholars to do work that matters. This pronouncement was a rallying call, inspiring scholars across disciplines to become scholar-activists and to channel their intellectual energy and labor toward the betterment of society. Scholars and activists alike have encountered and expanded on the path-breaking theories and concepts first introduced by Anzaldúa in *Borderlands/La frontera* and other texts.

*Teaching Gloria E. Anzaldúa* is a pragmatic and inspiring offering of how to apply Anzaldúa’s ideas to the classroom and in the community rather than simply discussing them as theory. The book gathers nineteen essays by scholars, activists, teachers, and professors who share how their first-hand use of Anzaldúa’s theories in their classrooms and community environments.

The collection is divided into three main parts, according to the ways the text has been used: “Curriculum Design,” “Pedagogy and Praxis,” and “Decolonizing Pedagogies.” As a pedagogical text, *Teaching Gloria E. Anzaldúa* also offers practical advice in the form of lesson plans, activities, and other suggested resources for the classroom. This volume offers practical and inspiring ways to deploy Anzaldúa’s transformative theories with real and meaningful action.

MARGARET CANTÚ-SÁNCHEZ is an instructor of English at St. Mary’s University, where she teaches Latinx theory and literature.

CANDACE DE LEÓN-ZEPEDA is an associate professor of English at Our Lady of the Lake University.

NORMA E. CANTÚ is a scholar-activist who currently serves as the Norine R. and T. Frank Murchison Professor of the Humanities at Trinity University. She is founder and director of the Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa.
VIVIDLY ADDRESSING THE POWER OF MEMORY, PLACE, AND IDENTITY

Colonial Legacies in Chicana/o Literature and Culture exposes the ways in which colonialism is expressed in the literary and cultural production of the U.S. Southwest, a region that has experienced at least two distinct colonial periods since the sixteenth century.

Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez traces how Spanish colonial texts reflect the motivation for colonial domination. She argues that layers of U.S. colonialism complicate how Chicana/o literary scholars think about Chicana/o literary and cultural production. She brings into view the experiences of Chicana/o communities that have long-standing ties to the U.S. Southwest but whose cultural heritage is tied through colonialism to multiple nations, including Spain, Mexico, and the United States.

While the legacies of Chicana/o literature simultaneously uphold and challenge colonial constructs, the metaphor of the kaleidoscope makes visible the rupturing of these colonial fragments via political and social urgencies. This book challenges readers to consider the possibilities of shifting our perspectives to reflect on stories told and untold and to advocate for the inclusion of fragmented and peripheral pieces within the kaleidoscope for more complex understandings of individual and collective subjectivities.

This book is intended for readers interested in how colonial legacies are performed in the U.S. Southwest, particularly in the context of New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. Readers will relate to the book’s personal narrative thread that provides a path to understanding fragmented identities.

Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez is an assistant professor of English at Arizona State University. Her work focuses on colonialism, place studies, and the narratives of southwestern U.S. communities. She is co-editor of Spanish Perspectives on Chicano Literature: Literary and Cultural Essays and Querencia: Reflections on the New Mexico Homeland.

“Piecing together fragments of Chicana/o literary and cultural legacies via the metaphor of the kaleidoscope, Fonseca-Chávez exposes, deconstructs, and reenvisions Chicana/o/x and mestiza/o identity in the present.”


“Fonseca-Chávez argues that by addressing literary heritages with eyes wide open, we can produce honest critiques of the canon. Only by doing so will we be able to account for the very diverse body that is Chicanx literature.”

—Linda Heidenreich, “This Land Was Mexican Once”: Histories of Resistance from Northern California
A portrait of Chicana/o grassroots leadership in the twentieth century

The community of San José, California, is a national model for social justice and community activism. This legacy has been hard earned. In the twentieth century, the activists of the city’s Mexican American community fought for equality in education and pay, better conditions in the workplace, better health care, and much more.

Sociologist and activist Josie Méndez-Negrete has returned to her hometown to document and record the stories of those who made contributions to the cultural and civic life of San José. Through interview excerpts, biographical and historical information, and analysis, Méndez-Negrete shows the contributions of this singular community throughout the twentieth century and the diversity of motivations across the generations.

Activists share with Méndez-Negrete how they became conscious about their communities and how they became involved in grassroots organizing, protest, and social action. Spanning generations, we hear about the motivations of activists in the 1930s to the end of the twentieth century. We hear firsthand stories of victories and struggles, successes and failures from those who participated.

Activist Leaders of San José narrates how parents—both mothers and fathers—were inspired to work for the rights of their people. Workers’ and education rights were at the core, but they also took on the elimination of at-large elections to open city politics, labor rights, domestic abuse, and health care. This book is an important record of the contributions of San José in improving conditions for the Mexican American community.

Josie Méndez-Negrete is a professor emerita of Mexican American studies in the Department of Bilingual-Bicultural Studies, the Mexican American Studies Program, and the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is the author of two previous books: A Life on Hold: Living with Schizophrenia takes us inside the heartbreak of mental illness. Las Hijas de Juan: Daughters Betrayed narrates a story of domestic and sexual violence in her family.
LA GENTE
STRUGGLES FOR EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY
SELF-DETERMINATION IN SACRAMENTO

LORENA V. MÁRQUEZ

An untold history of Mexican Americans in Civil Rights–era California

La Gente traces the rise of the Chicana/o Movement in Sacramento and the role of everyday people in galvanizing a collective to seek lasting and transformative change during the 1960s and 1970s. In their efforts to be self-determined, la gente contested multiple forms of oppression at school, at work sites, and in their communities.

Though diverse in their cultural and generational backgrounds, la gente were constantly negotiating acts of resistance, especially when their lives, the lives of their children, their livelihoods, or their households were at risk. Historian Lorena V. Márquez documents early community interventions to challenge the prevailing notions of desegregation by barrio residents, providing a look at one of the first cases of outright resistance to desegregation efforts by ethnic Mexicans. She also shares the story of workers in the Sacramento area who initiated and won the first legal victory against canneries for discriminating against brown and black workers and women, and demonstrates how the community crossed ethnic barriers when it established the first accredited Chicana/o and Native American community college in the nation.

Márquez shows that the Chicana/o Movement was not solely limited to a handful of organizations or charismatic leaders. Rather, it encouraged those that were the most marginalized—the working poor, immigrants and/or the undocumented, and the undereducated—to fight for their rights on the premise that they too were contributing and deserving members of society.

LORENA V. MÁRQUEZ is an assistant professor in the Department of Chicana/o Studies at the University of California, Davis, where she teaches Chicana/o history.

“La Gente highlights unexplored sites of struggle in the underexplored Sacramento and Northern California region—vital to the field of Chicano/a/x and civil rights history. More importantly, it reveals that working poor men and women—often immigrants and barrio residents—were part and parcel to the movement. Class, legal status, and gender, the book reminds, must be centered to reveal the heterogeneous political interests, tensions, and possibilities at stake within struggles for racial justice.”

—Jimmy Patiño, author of Raza Sí, Migra No: Chicano Movement Struggles for Immigrant Rights in San Diego
**BINATIONAL COMMONS**

**INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE ON THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER**

**EDITED BY TONY PAYAN AND PAMELA L. CRUZ**

*Bringing the most critical issues of the borderlands into focus*

Studying institutional development is not only about empowering communities to withstand political buccaneering; it is also about generating effective and democratic governance so that all members of a community can enjoy the benefits of social life. In the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, cross-border governance draws only sporadic—and even erratic—attention, primarily in times of crises, when governance mechanisms can no longer provide even moderately adequate solutions.

This volume addresses the most pertinent binational issues and how they are dealt with by both countries. In this important and timely volume, experts tackle the important problem of cross-border governance by an examination of formal and informal institutions, networks, processes, and mechanisms. Contributors also discuss various social, political, and economic actors and agencies that make up the increasingly complex governance space that is the U.S.-Mexico border.

**Binational Commons** focuses on whether the institutions that presently govern the U.S.-Mexico transborder space are effective in providing solutions to difficult binational problems as they manifest themselves in the borderlands. Critical for policy-making now and into the future, this volume addresses key binational issues. It explores where there are strong levels of institutional governance development, where it is failing, how governance mechanisms have evolved over time, and what can be done to improve it to meet the needs of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands in the next decades.

**TONY PAYAN**, PhD, is the Françoise and Edward Djerejian Fellow for Mexico Studies and director of the Center for the United States and Mexico at the Baker Institute. He is also a professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ).

**PAMELA L. CRUZ** is the research analyst for the Baker Institute Center for the United States and Mexico. She works with the director and affiliated scholars to carry out research on Mexico’s policy issues and U.S.-Mexico relations.

“This excellent book addresses border governance institutions and documents how dynamic events have outgrown institutional capabilities for governance. Exceptional chapters on institutions and governance that address transportation, data generation, planning, energy, health, security, the environment, and other areas of the border reality make this book essential reading for border students, researchers, and practitioners.”

—Paul Ganster, author of *The U.S.-Mexican Border Today: Conflict and Cooperation in Historical Perspective*
MEXICO’S COMMUNITY FOREST ENTERPRISES
SUCCESS ON THE COMMONS AND THE SEEDS OF A GOOD ANTHROPOCENE

DAVID BARTON BRAY

A global model for sustainable social-ecological systems, resilient forests, and climate change mitigation

The road to sustainable forest management and stewardship has been debated for decades. Some advocate for governmental control and oversight. Some say that the only way to stem the tide of deforestation is to place as many tracts as possible under strict protection. Caught in the middle of this debate, forest inhabitants of the developing world struggle to balance the extraction of precarious livelihoods from forests while responding to increasing pressures from national governments, international institutions, and their own perceptions of environmental decline to protect biodiversity, restore forests, and mitigate climate change.

Mexico presents a unique case in which much of the nation’s forests were placed as commons in the hands of communities, who, with state support and their own entrepreneurial vigor, created community forest enterprises (CFEs). David Barton Bray, who has spent more than thirty years engaged with and researching Mexican community forestry, shows that this reform has transformed forest management in that country at a scale and level of maturity unmatched anywhere else in the world.

For decades Mexico has been conducting a de facto large-scale experiment in the design of a national social-ecological system (SES) focused on community forests. What happens when you give subsistence communities rights over forests, as well as training, organizational support, equipment, and financial capital? Do the communities destroy the forest in the name of economic development, or do they manage them sustainably, generating current income while maintaining intergenerational value as a resource for their children? Bray shares the scientific and social evidence that can now begin to answer these questions. This is an invaluable resource for students, researchers, and the interested public on the future of global forest resilience and the possibilities for a good Anthropocene.

DAVID BARTON BRAY is a professor in the Earth and Environment Department at Florida International University. He received his PhD from Brown University in 1983. He is the lead editor of the book The Community Forests of Mexico and is widely published in academic journals and in popular outlets such as the New York Times and the Miami Herald.

“At a time when climate change, deforestation, and rural poverty have emerged as global scourges, Mexico’s Community Forest Enterprises examines how forest communities in Mexico beat the odds by forming grassroots timber companies capable of managing collective resources and sustaining livelihoods. The result is an indispensable study of how the interaction of institutions and social capital can address some of the most intractable challenges facing the world today.”

—Christopher R. Boyer, author of Political Landscapes: Forests, Conservation, and Community in Mexico
REFLECTIONS OF A TRANSBORDER ANTHROPOLOGIST
FROM NETZAHUALCÓYOTL TO AZTLÁN

CARLOS G. VÉLEZ-IBÁÑEZ

A pivotal transborder scholar shares the experiences that informed his work

Taking us on a journey of remembering and rediscovery, anthropologist Carlos G. Vélez-Ibáñez explores his development as a scholar and in so doing the development of the interdisciplinary fields of transborder and applied anthropology. He shows us his path through anthropology as both a theoretical and an applied anthropologist whose work has strongly influenced borderlands and applied research. Importantly, he explains the underlying, often hidden process that led to his long insistence on making a difference in lives of people of Mexican origin on both sides of the border and to contribute to a “People with Histories.”

In each chapter, Vélez-Ibáñez revisits a critical piece of his written work, providing a new introduction and discussion of ideas, sources, and influences for the piece. These are followed by the work, chosen because it accentuates key aspects of his development and formation as an anthropologist. By returning to these previously published works, Vélez-Ibáñez offers insight not only into the evolution of his own thinking and conceptualization but also into changes in the fields in which he has been so influential. Throughout his career, Vélez-Ibáñez has addressed why he does the work that he does, and in this volume he continues to address the personal and intellectual drives that have brought him from Netzahualcóyotl to Aztlán.

Reflections of a Transborder Anthropologist shows how both Vélez-Ibáñez and anthropology have changed and formed over a fifty-year period. Throughout, he has worked to understand how people survive and thrive against all odds. Vélez-Ibáñez has been guided by the burning desire to understand inequality, exploitation, and legitimacy, and, most importantly, to provide platforms for the voiceless to narrate their own histories.

CARLOS G. VÉLEZ-IBÁÑEZ is a Regents Professor and the Motorola Presidential Professor of Neighborhood Revitalization in the School of Transborder Studies and a Regents Professor of in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. His numerous honors include the 2004 Robert B. Textor and Family Prize for Excellence in Anticipatory Anthropology and the 2003 Bronislaw Malinowski Medal. Vélez-Ibáñez was elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1994 and was named as a corresponding member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences (Miembro Correspondiente de la Academia Mexicana de Ciencias) in 2015, the only American anthropologist so selected.

“This brilliant collection of essays explores issues of marginality, transborder and transnational issues, tandas, confianza, nonconsensual sterilization cases of Mexican women in California, networks of monetary exchange, political ecology of debt and class, barrioization, women and the border, and the issue of hegemonic language politics.”

—Maria Herrera-Sobek, University of California, Santa Barbara
How revitalization dictionary projects can energize sleeping languages

In a linguistic climate that is hyperaware of so-called language death, dictionaries have been touted as stalwarts for language preservation. When wielded by communities undertaking language revitalization, dictionaries can be designed to facilitate reversing language shift and fostering linguistic innovation. Indeed, dictionaries’ reputation as multifunctional reference materials make them adaptable to a wide variety of community needs.

Revitalization Lexicography provides a detailed account of creating a dictionary meant to move a once-sleeping language into a language of active daily use. This unique look under the hood of lexicography in a small community highlights the ways in which the dictionary was intentionally leveraged to shape the Tunica language as it inevitably changes throughout revitalization. Tunica, one of the heritage languages of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Marksville, Louisiana, has been undergoing active revitalization since 2010. The current generation of speakers began learning Tunica, a once-sleeping language, through written documentation. Now enough Tunica speakers to confer amongst themselves when questionable language use arises.

Marrying both the theoretical and the practical aspects that contributed to the Tunica dictionary, this book discusses complex lexicographic tasks in a manner accessible to both academic and community readers. This work is firmly backdropped in a fieldwork approach that centers the community as owners of all aspects of their revitalization project. This book provides concrete and practical considerations for anyone attempting to create a dictionary. Contrasting examples from Tunica and English dictionaries, this book challenges readers to rethink their relationship to dictionaries in general. A must-read for anyone who has ever touched a dictionary.

PATRICIA M. ANDERSON holds a PhD in linguistic anthropology from Tulane University. She is an active member of the Tunica Language Project and head lexicographer of the New Tunica Dictionary. Her research focuses on language revitalization in Native North America and the intersection of language revitalization and technology. She is especially involved in leveraging everyday technology to encourage learner creativity and community empowerment in language revitalization efforts.

“Revitalization Lexicography illuminates a way of developing dictionaries through collaborative work between academics and communities interested in language revitalization. It is essential reading for anyone starting down the path of creating a dictionary in a collaborative framework, with careful attention to the details that must be attended to and the kind of thought process one goes through in making a myriad of decisions about what it means for something to be a dictionary. It will be of interest to those who want to know more about all that it takes to design a dictionary.”

—Keren Rice, University of Toronto
SOLDIERS, SAINTS, AND SHAMANS
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE REVOLUTIONARY STATE IN MEXICO’S GRAN NAYAR, 1910–1940

NATHANIEL MORRIS

An untold story of the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath

The Mexican Revolution gave rise to the Mexican nation-state as we know it today. Rural revolutionaries took up arms against the Díaz dictatorship in support of agrarian reform, in defense of their political autonomy, or inspired by a nationalist desire to forge a new Mexico. However, in the Gran Nayar, a rugged expanse of mountains and canyons, the story was more complex, as the region’s four Indigenous peoples fought both for and against the revolution and the radical changes it brought to their homeland.

To make sense of this complex history, Nathaniel Morris offers the first systematic understanding of the participation of the Náayari, Wixárika, O’dam, and Mexicanero peoples in the Mexican Revolution. They are known for being among the least “assimilated” of all Mexico’s Indigenous peoples. It’s often been assumed that they were stuck up in their mountain homeland—“the Gran Nayar”—with no knowledge of the uprisings, civil wars, military coups, and political upheaval that convulsed the rest of Mexico between 1910 and 1940.

Based on extensive archival research and years of fieldwork in the rugged and remote Gran Nayar, Morris shows that the Náayari, Wixárika, O’dam, and Mexicanero peoples were actively involved in the armed phase of the revolution. This participation led to serious clashes between an expansionist, “rationalist” revolutionary state and the highly autonomous communities and heterodox cultural and religious practices of the Gran Nayar’s inhabitants. Morris documents confrontations between practitioners of subsistence agriculture and promoters of capitalist development, between rival Indian generations and political factions, and between opposing visions of the world, of religion, and of daily life. These clashes produced some of the most severe defeats that the government’s state-building programs suffered during the entire revolutionary era, with significant and often counterintuitive consequences both for local people and for the Mexican nation as a whole.

NATHANIEL MORRIS is a historian of modern Mexico. He researches revolutions, state formation, rural politics, and violence, and he specializes in Indigenous contributions to all four. He is currently a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at University College London, where he is investigating the role of Indigenous militias in both the Mexican Revolution and Mexico’s ongoing “Drug War.” Soldiers, Saints, and Shamans is Morris’s first book.

“This monumental work shows the resilience of the Indigenous communities of the Gran Nayar during the armed phase of the revolution and the first and second Cristero wars. Morris reveals that Indigenous Mexicans were neither a monolithic band of traditionalists fighting the outside world in a Guerra de Castas nor passive victims of soldiers and teachers. It stands as a significant contribution to the ethno-history of modern Mexico.”

—Ben Fallaw, co-editor of State Formation in the Liberal Era
LA RAZA COSMÉTICA
BEAUTY, IDENTITY, AND SETTLER COLONIALISM IN POSTREVOLUTIONARY MEXICO

NATASHA VARNER

Traces postrevolutionary popular culture and identity formation as projects of settler colonialism

In the decades following the Mexican Revolution, nation builders, artists, and intellectuals manufactured ideologies that continue to give shape to popular understandings of indigeneity and mestizaje today. Postrevolutionary identity tropes emerged as part of broader efforts to reunify the nation and solve pressing social concerns, including what was posited in the racist rhetoric of the time as the “Indian problem.” Through a complex alchemy of appropriation and erasure, indigeneity was idealized as a relic of the past while mestizaje was positioned as the race of the future. This period of identity formation coincided with a boom in technology that introduced a sudden proliferation of images on the streets and in homes: there were more photographs in newspapers, movie houses cropped up across the country, and printing houses mass-produced calendar art and postcards. La Raza Cosmética traces postrevolutionary identity ideals and debates as they were dispersed to the greater public through emerging visual culture.

Critically examining beauty pageants, cinema, tourism propaganda, photography, murals, and more, Natasha Varner shows how postrevolutionary understandings of mexicanidad were fundamentally structured by legacies of colonialism, as well as shifting ideas about race, place, and gender. This interdisciplinary study smartly weaves together cultural history, Indigenous and settler colonial studies, film and popular culture analysis, and environmental and urban history. It also traces a range of Indigenous interventions in order to disrupt top-down understandings of national identity construction and to “people” this history with voices that have all too often been entirely ignored.

NATASHA VARNER, PhD, is a writer and historian whose work focuses on race, identity, and settler colonialism in Mexico and the United States. She is the recipient of the 2017 Lewis Hanke postdoctoral research award presented by the Conference on Latin American History. In addition to traditional academic pursuits, she is a public scholar who has written for Public Radio International and Jacobin, among other outlets.

“Natasha Varner’s La Raza Cosmética is an important, original study on the intricacies of white supremacist ideology articulated through mestizaje in Mexico from the 1920s through the 1940s. Its nuanced decolonial theoretical approach offers a lucid critique that illuminates how settler colonial policies operate not only in Mexico but across the Americas.”

—Emil Keme, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
WHALE SNOW
Iñupiat, Climate Change, and Multispecies Resilience in Arctic Alaska

CHIE SAKAKIBARA

Showing why intense and intimate relations with the natural world matter

As a mythical creature, the whale has been responsible for many transformations in the world. It is an enchanting being that humans have long felt a connection to. In the contemporary environmental imagination, whales are charismatic megafauna feeding our environmentalism and aspirations for a better and more sustainable future.

Using multispecies ethnography, Whale Snow explores how everyday the relatedness of the Iñupiat of Arctic Alaska and the bowhead whale forms and transforms “the human” through their encounters with modernity. Whale Snow shows how the people live in the world that intersects with other beings, how these connections came into being, and, most importantly, how such intimate and intense relations help humans survive the social challenges incurred by climate change. In this time of ecological transition, exploring multispecies relatedness is crucial as it keeps social capacities to adapt relational, elastic, and resilient.

In the Arctic, climate, culture, and human resilience are connected through bowhead whaling. In Whale Snow we see how climate change disrupts this ancient practice and, in the process, affects a vital expression of Indigenous sovereignty. Ultimately, though, this book offers a story of hope grounded in multispecies resilience.

CHIE SAKAKIBARA is an assistant professor of environmental studies at Oberlin College. Sakakibara was trained in cultural geography, art history, and Indigenous studies. Her work explores human dimensions of global environmental change among Indigenous peoples.

“The Japanese epistemology begins and ends with sonkei (respect); likewise, with the Iñupiat, with the word quksin. Chie Sakakibara begins her research journey with two Iñupiat communities and establishes avammun (reciprocity) and is adopted by the Iñupiat. Her Iñupiat relations share their uqaqtuat (personal stories) about their intimate relationship with agviq (the bowhead whale).”

—Sean Asiqluq Topkok, University of Alaska

“When invited ‘not to disappear’ after her initial time in Utqiagvik, Chie Sakakibara accepted with energy, insight, and compassion. The result, as she shares with us in Whale Snow, is a remarkable and personal engagement with the Iñupiat of northern Alaska. Her book is a powerful testimony to Indigenous ways of being in the world, to the values that sustain a society in the midst of environmental, economic, and political turmoil.”

—Henry P. Huntington, Pew Environment Group Arctic Program
NARRATING NATURE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MAASAI WAYS OF KNOWING

MARA J. GOLDMAN

Challenging conventional conservation approaches with new stories of living with nature

The current environmental crises demand that we revisit dominant approaches for understanding nature-society relations. Narrating Nature brings together various ways of knowing nature from differently situated Maasai and conservation practitioners and scientists into lively debate. It speaks to the growing movement within the academy and beyond on decolonizing knowledge about and relationships with nature, and debates within the social sciences on how to work across epistemologies and ontologies. It also speaks to a growing need within conservation studies to find ways to manage nature with people.

This book employs different storytelling practices, including a traditional Maasai oral meeting—the enkiguena—to decenter conventional scientific ways of communicating about, knowing, and managing nature. Author Mara J. Goldman draws on more than two decades of deep ethnographic and ecological engagements in the semi-arid rangelands of East Africa—in landscapes inhabited by pastoral and agropastoral Maasai people and heavily utilized by wildlife. These iconic landscapes have continuously been subjected to boundary drawing practices by outsiders, separating out places for people (villages) from places for nature (protected areas). Narrating Nature follows the resulting boundary crossings that regularly occur—of people, wildlife, and knowledge—to expose them not as transgressions but as opportunities to complicate the categories themselves and create ontological openings for knowing and being with nature otherwise.

Narrating Nature opens up dialogue that counters traditional conservation narratives by providing space for local Maasai inhabitants to share their ways of knowing and being with nature. It moves beyond standard community conservation narratives that see local people as beneficiaries or contributors to conservation, to demonstrate how they are essential knowledgeable members of the conservation landscape itself.

MARA J. GOLDMAN is an associate professor of geography and fellow at the Institute for Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She co-edited Knowing Nature: Conversations at the Intersection of Political Ecology and Science Studies.

“Narrating Nature is a colorful and groundbreaking analysis of the hidden tensions inside the science underlying environmental conservation in Africa. Mara J. Goldman skillfully draws together scientific expertise and local discussions of environmental priorities to show how wildlife conservation in Africa can exclude local practices and how understanding the Maasai can enhance environmental policy and show alternative outcomes.”

—Tim Forsyth, University of London
THE EDIBLE GARDENS OF ETHIOPIA
AN ETHNOGRAPHIC JOURNEY INTO BEAUTY AND HUNGER

VALENTINA PEVERI

How the ensete plant nourishes in southwestern Ethiopia

What is a beautiful garden to southern Ethiopian farmers? Anchored in the author’s perceptual approach to the people, plants, land, and food, The Edible Gardens of Ethiopia opens a window into the simple beauty and ecological vitality of an ensete garden.

The ensete plant is only one among the many “unloved” crops that are marginalized and pushed close to disappearance by the advance of farming modernization and monocultural thinking. And yet its human companions, caught in a symbiotic and sensuous dialogue with the plant, still relate to each exemplar as having individual appearance, sensibility, charisma, and taste, as an epiphany of beauty and prosperity, and even believe that the plant can feel pain. Here a different story is recounted of these human-plant communities, one of reciprocal love at times practiced in an act of secrecy. The plot unfolds from the subversive and tasteful dimensions of gardening for subsistence and cooking in the garden of ensete through reflections on the cultural and edible dimensions of biodiversity to embrace hunger and beauty as absorbing aesthetic experiences in small-scale agriculture. Through this story, the reader will enter the material and spiritual world of ensete and contemplate it as a modest yet inspiring example of hope in rapidly deteriorating landscapes.

Based on prolonged engagement with this “virtuous” plant of southwestern Ethiopia, this book provides a nuanced reading of the ensete ventricosum (avant-)garden and explores how the life in tiny, diverse, and womanly plots offers alternative visions of nature, food policy, and conservation efforts.

VALENTINA PEVERI is a food anthropologist with experience in the fields of environment and development. She held a Fulbright and visiting scholar appointment at Boston University. She serves as an adjunct professor at The American University of Rome (AUR) and as an international consultant.

“An ethnographic and literary homage to a unique plant from a unique part of Ethiopia. Dr. Peveri takes you deep into the secret ensete gardens of southwestern Ethiopia to explore, taste, and admire this life-nurturing plant and appreciate its role in shaping the culture, identity, and aesthetic values of the Hadiyya community.”

—Angela Raven-Roberts, Oxford University

“Peveri’s glorious ethnography offers nuanced understanding of how plant and people meet, of the nostalgia and hope, work and play, love and beauty expressed by ensete and its human relatives. She helps us see like a farmer and see like a perennial tuber. She Shares her love for ensete—a botanical relative of the banana—and of the women of Hadiyya who cultivate intimate relationships with plants in gardens and kitchens, even as hybrid maize threatens the plant that has fed people for two hundred years.”

—Harriet Friedmann, University of Toronto
THE PREHISPANIC ETHNOBOTANY OF PAQUIMÉ AND ITS NEIGHBORS

PAUL E. MINNIS AND MICHAEL E. WHALEN

Examining farming networks and plant use at Chihuahua’s Casas Grandes

Paquimé (also known as Casas Grandes) and its antecedents are important and interesting parts of the prehispanic history in northwestern Mexico and the U.S. Southwest. Not only is there a long history of human occupation, but Paquimé is one of the better examples of centralized influence. Unfortunately, it is also an understudied region compared to the U.S. Southwest and other places in Mesoamerica.

This volume is the first large-scale investigation of the prehispanic ethno-botany of this important ancient site and its neighbors. The authors examine ethnobotanical relationships during Medio Period, AD 1200–1450, when Paquimé was at its most influential. Based on two decades of archaeological research, this book examines uses of plants for food, farming strategies, wood use, and anthropogenic ecology. The authors show that the relationships between plants and people are complex, interdependent, and reciprocal. This volume documents ethnobotanical relationships and shows their importance to the development of the Paquimé polity.

How ancient farmers made a living in an arid to semi-arid region and the effects their livelihood had on the local biota, their relations with plants, and their connection with other peoples is worthy of serious study. The story of the Casas Grandes tradition holds valuable lessons for humanity.

PAUL E. MINNIS is a professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author or editor of twelve books and numerous articles. He has been president of the Society of Ethnobiology and treasurer and press editor for the Society for American Archaeology, and is co-founder of the Southwest Symposium.

MICHAEL E. WHALEN is a professor emeritus in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tulsa. He has published a series of books, monographs, chapters, and journal articles on Oaxaca, western Texas, and northwestern Chihuahua. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

“Based on decades of research, Minnis and Whalen expertly and effectively explore prehistoric plant use, agriculture, and human-plant interrelationships that formed the economic basis at Paquimé (Casas Grandes) and neighboring communities in northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico. This work represents a significant contribution to the prehistory of northwestern Mexico, an understudied region that witnessed the rise of an elaborate society with far-reaching networks during the Medio Period (AD 1200–1450).”

—J. Kevin Hanselka, Archaeobotanist, U.S. Southwest and Northern Mexico

“Minnis and Whalen have produced the definitive book on the paleoethnobotany of the Casas Grandes Region. [This] is certain to be a desk reference of choice for future generations of archaeologists working in Chihuahua.”

—Jeremy J. Cunningham, University of Lethbridge
OYSTERS IN THE LAND OF CACAO
ARCHAEOLOGY, MATERIAL CULTURE, AND SOCIETIES
AT ISLAS DE LOS CERROS AND THE WESTERN CHONTALPA, TABASCO, MEXICO

BRADLEY E. ENSOR

Offers a significant new understanding of the archaeology of western Tabasco

For decades, the Chontalpa region of Tabasco, Mexico, conjured images of the possible origins of the Itzá, who migrated, conquered, or otherwise influenced much of Mesoamerica. In *Oysters in the Land of Cacao*, archaeologist Bradley E. Ensor provides an important resource for Mesoamerican Gulf Coast archaeology by offering a new and detailed picture of the coastal sites vital to understanding regional interactions and social dynamics.

This book synthesizes data from multiyear investigations at a coastal site complex in Tabasco—Islas de Los Cerros (ILC)—providing the first modern, systematic descriptions and analyses of material culture that challenge preconceptions while enabling new perspectives on cultural developments from the Formative to Late Classic periods through the lens of regional comparisons and contemporary theoretical trends. Ensor introduces a political ecological understanding of the environment and archaeological features, overturns a misconception that the latter were formative shell middens, provides an alternative pottery classification more appropriate for the materials and for contemporary theory, and introduces new approaches for addressing formation processes and settlement history.

Building on the empirical analyses and discussions of problems in Mesoamerican archaeology, this book contributes new approaches to practice and agency perspectives, holistically integrating intra- and interclass agency, kinship strategies, gender and age dynamics, layered cultural identities, landscapes, social memory, and foodways and feasting. *Oysters in the Land of Cacao* addresses issues important to coastal archaeology within and beyond Mesoamerica. It delivers an overdue regional synthesis and new observations on settlement patterns, elite power, and political economies.

BRADLEY E. ENSOR is a professor at Eastern Michigan University and author of *The Archaeology of Kinship* and *Crafting Prehispanic Maya Kinship*.

“Ensor summarizes two decades of innovative archaeological research on the small, nonagricultural communities around the Laguna de Mecoacan some ten miles north of the Late Classic Maya kingdom of Comalcalco. His research is a significant contribution to the understanding of this Maya kingdom. These communities were integrated into the Comalcalco polity as tributaries supplying the primate center with crushed shell and lime for the construction of elite residences and temples. Ensor further disproves the hypothesis that these small coastal communities were 'ports of trade,' suggesting that long-distance and regional trade in the area was controlled directly from the Comalcalco primate center. He further summarizes the Late Formative and Late Classic sociopolitical history of western Tabasco. His conclusions and speculations should stimulate further research and discussion of this crucial intermediate area.”

—Edward B. Sisson, University of Mississippi
LIVING WITH THE DEAD
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EDITED BY JAMES L. FITZSIMMONS AND
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