Abstract

In the American Southwest and along the U.S.-Mexico border, Anglos and Mexicans are often viewed as the quintessential Others. This ethnographic study problematizes the Anglo-Mexican opposition with ethnographic data from interviews with a Mexican farmworker family and an Anglo farmer family of the El Paso Lower Valley. I argue that Anglo hegemony is not based exclusively on cultural separation but often involves hybridity (including Mexicanization) and patron-client relations entailing benevolent paternalism. I show how the concept of Anglo is a contested identity constructed through interactions between Mexicans and Euroamericans. Through this study of border crossings in situations of asymmetrical power relations, I advocate a complicit anthropology that presents competing ethnic groups in their full complexity rather than as stereotypes or caricatures of their Others.

Keywords

Mexico, border, Anglo, Mexican, ethnic relationships, agriculture