Abstract

Using ethnographic data, this article demonstrates the way in which the domestic unit category is inadequate for understanding the organization and functioning of a type of rural productive unit found in a corner of the Bajío region, specifically cattle feedlots that are operated on the basis of family alliances among members of nuclear families. The organization and functioning of these units are in the hands of the men who manage them ¿who are often guided by the father in the family¿ and women have very marginal participation. These units have been created and developed since the 1980s, promoted primarily by migrants living in the United States. The particular logic reflected in the way they are created and sustained varies between a family member that manages a unit and the absent owners of a unit, leading to a certain interplay between the economic and the emotional.

Keywords

Domestic unit, family production organization, migration, economics of emotions.