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Review of Mestizos Come Home!: Making and Claiming Mexican American Identity. By Robert Con Davis-Undiano. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017).

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Overall, *Higher Education in Texas* is an immensely useful text that spans both Texas history and the workings of higher education in a way that both amateurs to the subject and professional historians can understand and find as a worthwhile read. From beginning to end, the book is informative and provides a refreshingly honest examination of higher education in the state. Chapters that explore the struggles on the part of women, Latinos, and African Americans for gaining access into the state's higher education system, for example, are written with an unapologetic candidness. Students, educators, and *aficionados* of Texas History will find this work invaluable. Moreover, administrators of institutions of higher learning as well as state legislatures will benefit the most from reading this work.

Sierra Glenn
Texas A&M University Kingsville

Mestizos Come Home!: Making and Claiming Mexican American Identity. By Robert Con Davis-Undiano. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017).

Following the precedent established by the Chicano Movement of the 1970s and 1980s, Dr. Robert Con Davis-Undiano's monograph *Mestizos Come Home!* serves as a call to arms to reawaken, reevaluate, and reestablish what it means to be a Mexican American living the United States. Davis-Undiano's appeal to examine the social and cultural contributions of Mexican Americans in the United States should be a catalyst for a multicultural and multiethnic future. For this to happen, Davis-Undiano states that the Mexican American community must begin reclaiming their *antepasados'* (ancestor's) mestizo history and implementing cultural and social adjustments which are represented through six key areas that are fundamental to the formulation of Mexican American history and culture including "mestizo identity, land, popular culture, the body, voice, and Chicano literature."

The book is separated into chapters that are corresponding to each one of these key areas. Every chapter seeks to assign a new meaning to understand the preconceived notions that have been attributed to Mexican American culture by the despotism that was started with the *casta* system, a system that has grasped the way mestizos are viewed. Dr. Davis-Undiano's research directly reflects the interdisciplinary nature of Mexican American/Chicano studies. His meticulous analysis of historical artifacts offers a vast insight into the views of early Spaniard colonization and the establishments of race as a hierarchical order. Moreover, his observance of the bronze body in relation to society is quite noteworthy. This chapter is so important and should be read and reread again as it is crucial for those who have once shared a disdain for their darker bodies. Brown skin is not a weakness, it is a strength that derived from a product of mixed heritage. Most importantly, women

should claim back their bodies that were once stripped of any social significance by the *castas* misogynistic system.

At its core, this manuscript is a celebration of *mestizaje*. No longer should Mexican Americans look in ire of their mestizo past but should celebrate that *mestizaje* to help reconnect with their past. Moreover, this book places a higher value on the cultural contributions of Mexican Americans to mainstream American culture. Holidays like Day of the Dead and Cinco De Mayo are proof that Mexican Americans have permeated several facets of American culture and that those kinds of holidays are now as American as perhaps the Fourth of July.

The analytical prowess displayed in *Mestizos Come Home!* is what makes this book stand out from the rest of the literature in this area of study. Dr. Davis-Undiano's writing allows for this book to be widely accessible to those both familiar and unfamiliar with Chicano Studies. His diligent research and writing style help to push his argument that query, and erudition are fundamental for advancing humanity.

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Porous Borders: Multiracial Migrations and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands. By Julian Lim. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017).

When investigating the history and development of nation-states, it is crucial to examine how borderlands developed in relation to the establishment of racial structures across borders. Researching local histories while simultaneously considering contemporary immigration legislation at the national level allows historians to better understand how citizenship is defined, and consequently, how local, diverse populations respond to these legal designations. In *Porous Borders*, Julian Lim provided excellent insight as to how African Americans, Mexicans, Anglo-Americans, and Chinese immigrants helped shape the borderlands as they rapidly converged in the El Paso, Texas area from the 1880s through the 1930s, an area that also had a pronounced, pre-existing Native American population. In producing this work, Lim adds an important work to the growing field of borderlands, immigration, racial, and local histories.

Worth mentioning is Lim's successful attempt to include the perspectives and histories of the different races that occupied the west Texas borderlands. Despite the obvious inherent difficulties this presented, Lim meticulously explained how the El Paso/Ciudad Juárez region became an important economic center during the late nineteenth century as railroad construction in northern Mexican and across the southwestern United States brought thousands of people from various racial

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