

america love me

Grupo BijaRi
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Cartography of the Self Through The Immigratory Condition - California 2010

Immigration to the United States has been a major source of population growth and cultural change throughout much of the history of the United States. Immigration has significantly shaped American

society. From the perspective of the constitutional legal system, however, immigration law—the federal law related to the entry, residence, status, and rights of noncitizens—has long occupied something of an outcast status. The

broad development of immigration law has been from a welter of autonomous state systems to a complex, relatively discretionary federal bureaucracy generally subject to little judicial oversight.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Companies move industrial and service production offshore in search of lower labor costs, often causing local social impacts and environmental damages. This phenomena requires the compliance and cooperation of home and foreign governments, which are essentially political acts, not the result of the "invisible hand" of free market neo-liberalism. The insensitivity of American international foundations to the poor life standards of the countries people are emigrating from reinforces migratory flows to USA.

TACTICAL ART + CULTURE JAMMING

Diverse forms of art and media activism that privileges temporary, hit-and-run interventions in the public spheres. Using tools such as performances, hacking, urban interventions, projections and tagging, the aim is to interfere in the hegemonic discourses that shape individual subjectivities through the disruption or subversion of mainstream institutions. The movement arouses to reassume art's position as a force of transformation of the existing ideological constructions by re-introducing the "dissident" into the circuits of representation.

DREAM ACT

This bill would provide certain inadmissible or deportable alien students who graduate from US high schools, who are of good moral character, arrived in the U.S. as minors, and have been in the country continuously for at least five years prior to the bill's enactment, the opportunity to earn conditional permanent residency if they complete two years in the military or two years at a four year institution of higher learning. The alien students would obtain temporary residency for a six year period, after which they could apply for citizenship.

FEDERAL-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP / 287 G

Agreement with federal government to empower police and enforce surveillance over suspects such as checking immigration status during traffic stops.

I.C.E., RACE PROFILING and DEPORTATION

Secure Communities by Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrived in May 2009. The search checks for criminal background and immigration status scanning the fingerprints of suspects through databases maintained by the FBI and homeland security. Since then, 22,604 people in California have been detained and 10,948 of those deported by ICE. They represent about half of the 42,503 people detained and nearly one-third of the 34,636 people deported across the United States, according to ICE data.

"ANCHOR BABY" or "BIRTH TOURISM"

Derogatory reference to the supposed role of the child, who as a U.S. citizen through the legal principle of jus soli, may facilitate immigration for relatives through family reunification. Family reunification in the USA is a lengthy process and limited to some categories. In fact, a US citizen child cannot file for a US visa for that citizen's parents until 21 years of age, and upon reaching that age the citizen applicant must also be earning at least 125% of the US poverty threshold to be able to apply.

EDUCATIONAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

There are many partnerships between government, non-profit organizations, universities, private foundations and public schools that try to support some aspect of a student's learning process, ranging from teacher training

programs to at-risk student interventions. Some are top-down strategies, while others are grassroots efforts to bring parents, principals and teachers into the process of developing the vision to create stronger schools.

EDUCATION CONFLICTS

Enrollment in traditional public schools dips to drastic low levels, caused in part by the economic downturn, yielding less money for school districts across the state. In inverse relation charter schools (publicly funded independently run

schools) are gaining larger percentages of students, creating what some see as a two-tiered educational system, deepening discrepancies between the students who need greater investments and the high-achieving demographic.

MILITARY TAKES AIM AT LATINOS

To endure the War Industry the U.S. military is turning increasingly to Latinos, including tens of thousands of non-citizen immigrants, to do the fighting and dying on its behalf. Latinos are envisioned as the most promising ethnic group for recruitment, because their numbers are growing rapidly in the US and they include a plentiful supply of low-income men of military age with few other job or educational prospects.

SKID ROW

While citizens can rely on retirement, insurance and other worker's benefits; undocumented non-workers are most likely to become homeless, and commit theft.

PUBLIC SECTOR INCOMES ERODED BY INFORMAL ACTIVITIES

The cost of informal employment to the public sector is high. Considering unreported and un-taxed payroll, the losses in un-paid benefits and insurance needed to fund social safety net for workers adds up to massive amounts. Plus the goods and services purchased by this community are mainly from informal retailers and service providers.

INFORMAL MARKET REALITY

Substandard wages and working conditions / no guaranteed minimum or maximum hours of work, paid holidays, or vacations / gender, ethnic, and racial discrimination are uncontrolled and systematically exploited / no mandatory health or safety regulations to protect workers from injury or death on the job.

TOP INDUSTRIES TO USE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

1. apparel accessories mfg.
2. fabric mills
3. textile mills
4. cut & sew apparel mfg.
5. landscaping services
6. private households
7. furniture & related products
8. services to buildings
9. dry cleaning and laundry
10. restaurants
11. automotive repair
12. traveler accommodation
13. grocery whse.

PRISON SYSTEM

317,375 offenders are under jurisdiction in 33 state prisons in California US 35,587 is the yearly cost per inmate and US 4,338 per parolee. 83 cents spent for "corrections" for every one dollar spent on higher education.

SB 390

Enables sentencing juvenile criminals to life without parole. People in this position are condemned to stay in prison until death for crimes committed at ages as young as 14. California has 250 people in this position.

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND LOW-INCOME TOP RANKED IN PRISONS

Among adult men in 2005, African Americans were incarcerated at a rate of 5,125 per 100,000 in the population, compared to 1,142 for Latinos, 770 for whites, and 474 for men of other races. Among women, African Americans were incarcerated at a rate of 346 per 100,000 in the population, compared to 62 for Latinos, 80 for whites, and 27 for women of other races. Inland and poorer areas of the state contribute disproportionately to the prison population.

