

# Immigration Books Bibliography

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## NON-FICTION

### ***Against the Deportation Terror: Organizing for Immigrant Rights in the Twentieth Century***

By Rachel Ida Buff (2018)

Despite being characterized as a “nation of immigrants,” the United States has seen a long history of immigrant rights struggles. Buff traces the story of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born (ACFPB) from its origins in the 1930s through repression during the early Cold War, to engagement with “new” Latinx and Caribbean immigrants in the 1970s and early 1980s.

### ***Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions*** By Valeria Luiselli (2017)

This book is organized around the 40 questions unaccompanied child migrants are made to complete when they arrive in the United States. Luiselli worked as a volunteer interpreter at a federal immigration court in New York City in 2015, translating her interviews with the children from Spanish to English.

### ***Enrique’s Journey: The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother***

By Sonia Nazario (2006)

Based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning series in The Los Angeles Times, this book, which has also been adapted for young adults, expands on the story of Enrique, whose mother moved from Honduras to the United States when he was 5 years old, leaving him behind with relatives. A decade later, Enrique travels to join her. Nazario “retraces his steps, telling the story as though she had sat beside him on each step of his journey,” wrote our reviewer.

### ***Strangers in our Midst: The Political Philosophy of Immigration*** By David Miller (2016)

Miller reframes immigration as a question of political philosophy seeking to balance the rights of immigrants with the legitimate concerns of citizens.

### ***A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story*** By Tom Gjelten (2015)

Gjelten looks at immigration, assimilation and national identity and the landmark immigration law of 50 years ago.

### ***Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s*** By Francisco Balderrama and Raymond Rodríguez (2006)

Balderrama and Rodríguez provide a historical foundation for understanding the period between 1930 and 1940. Because of deportation or “repatriation,” during that time, the Mexican-born population living in the U.S. Southwest fell from 600,000 to under 400,000. It is believed that around 60 percent of those Mexican and Mexican-Americans who were voluntarily and involuntarily deported were American citizens.

### ***Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*** By Mae Ngai (2004)

Ngai demonstrates how the concept of “illegality” is a relatively recent social construction, tracing the origins of the term “illegal aliens” in American law to explain why and how the concept of illegal migration became the central focus of U.S. immigration policy, and then by default, the discourse we use around immigration.

### ***A Nation by Design*** By Aristide Zolberg (2006)

Zolberg explores how, over the last two centuries, small but powerful interest groups have changed immigration policy in ways that benefited their narrow economic and social interests. They essentially engineered the nation they desired through these policies.

### ***American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*** By Gary Gerstle (2001)

*American Crucible* is one of the best academic books to examine questions of identity, race, and the melting pot.

### ***Almost All Aliens: Immigration, Race & Colonialism in American History and Identity***

By Paul Spickard (2007)

Spickard puts race-making and colonialism at the center of the story demonstrating that immigration is intimately connected to issues of race, nation, and America’s role in the world.

## MEMOIR

***The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border*** By Francisco Cantu (2018).

In this memoir about his time as a border agent and the horrors suffered by Mexican migrants, Cantu provides a human connection between both sides of the border.

***Retablos: Stories from a Life Along the Border*** By Octavio Solis (2018)

Solis grew up just a mile from the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas, and he tells stories about his childhood and coming of age, including his parents' migration to the United States from Mexico.

***Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*** By Jose Antonio Vargas (2018)

This book is about lying and being forced to lie to get by; about passing as an American and as a contributing citizen.

## FICTION

***Lost Children Archive*** By Valeria Luiselli (2019)

Told through the voices of the mother and her son, as well as through a stunning tapestry of collected texts and images--including prior stories of migration and displacement--*Lost Children Archive* is a story of how we document our experiences, and how we remember the things that matter to us the most. Blending the personal and the political with astonishing empathy, it is a powerful, wholly original work of fiction: exquisite, provocative, and deeply moving.

***The Other Americans*** By Laila Lalami (expected publication date March 26, 2019)

A diverse cast of characters tell their stories and the invisible connections that tie them together, even while they remain deeply divided by race, religion.

***Across a Hundred Mountains*** By Reyna Grande (2006)

Leaving her small Mexico hometown after years of caring for her mother, Juana Garcia embarks on a search for the father who disappeared nineteen years earlier and teams up with Adelina Vasquez, who left her family to pursue forbidden love.

***ESPERANZA RISING*** By Pam Muñoz Ryan (2002)

A Scholastic Publishing Gold Line book for middle school readers. Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and her Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp.

## POETRY

***Unaccompanied*** By Javier Zamora. (2017)

Javier Zamora was nine years old when he traveled unaccompanied 4,000 miles, across multiple borders, from El Salvador to the United States to be reunited with his parents. Zamora's hope-filled poetry humanizes the highly charged and polarizing rhetoric of border-crossing; assesses borderland politics, race, and immigration and simultaneously remembers and imagines a birth country that's been left behind. A combination of Spanish and English.