

**Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego
Center for the Study of International Migration, UC Los Angeles
Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative, UC Berkeley
Global Migration Center , UC Davis**

Texas-Style Exclusion: Mexican Americans and the Legacy of Limited Opportunity

Friday, April 18, 2025 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time

Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



Author: Jennifer Van Hook

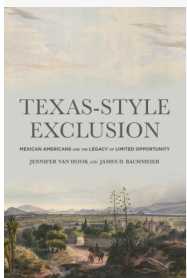
Jennifer Van Hook is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Demography at the Pennsylvania State University, and non-resident fellow at the Migration Policy Institute. Her research focuses on the demographics of immigrant populations and the socioeconomic integration of immigrants and their children.



Author: James D. Bachmeier

James D. Bachmeier is Associate Professor of Sociology at Temple University (Philadelphia), a founding Research Fellow of the Public Policy Lab at Temple University, a non-resident Fellow at the Migration Policy Institute (Washington, DC), and a non-resident research affiliate at the Population Research Institute at Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA).

MEXICAN AMERICANS AND THE LEGACY OF LIMITED OPPORTUNITY



While Americans largely support legal immigration, this support is conditional on the basis that immigrants “make it on their own”. European-origin Industrial Era immigrants came to U.S. impoverished, worked hard, and achieved the American Dream seemingly on their own. Mexican immigrants, the nation’s largest contemporary immigrant group, are often accused of being dependent on the government and refusing to integrate into American society the “right way.” In their new book, *Texas-Style Exclusion*, Jennifer Van Hook and James D. Bachmeier evaluate these claims by using linked census and archival schooling data to investigate how American society has responded to different groups of immigrants over time.

Their research reveals that Mexican immigrants in Texas encountered systematic prejudice and obstacles, while European immigrants in the Northeast benefited from Progressive Era legislation and educational support in the early 20th century. The authors found that Mexican immigrants who arrived after the Civil Rights Movement or settled in other regions achieved better outcomes, highlighting the crucial role of institutional backing in immigrant success.

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