

**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**

Constructed Movements: Extraction and Resistance in Mexican Migrant Communities

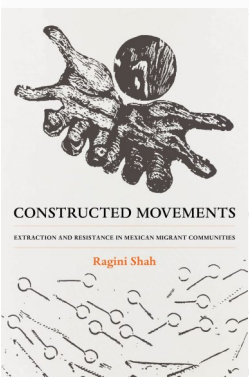
Friday, January 31, 2025 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time

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



Author: Ragini Shah

Ragini Shah is a Clinical Professor of Law at Suffolk University Law School and director of the Immigrant Justice Clinic which she founded in 2007. Her writing examines immigration law from the perspective of those most impacted. Her first articles examined the experiences of youth who were left without a mechanism for regularizing their status arguing for an expansion of citizenship principles to include these youth. She then moved to considering the perspective of the parents and other community members of these youth exposing the connections between U.S. economic policies and unauthorized migration. In 2012, she was granted a Fulbright award to deepen her research into migrant experiences and from 2012-2013 conducted over 70 interviews with former migrants, their families, and community organizers in Mexico. She returned to Mexico over the next five years, following up with these interviewees and talking with an additional two dozen people to form the basis of her book, *Constructed Movements, Extraction and Resistance in Mexican Migrant Communities*.



Constructed Movements examines migration from the perspective of Mexican migrant communities including migrants themselves, their family members and community organizers. These perspectives, gathered over five years, and over four diverse geographic areas of Mexico, form the basis of the book's key insight that migration is extraction, in other words, that migration is a part of a larger cycle of colonial extraction from marginalized Mexican communities to benefit Mexican and U.S. elites. In addition to detailing the ways in which the migration as extraction cycle operates, the book also profiles community resistance to the extractive cycle of migration and outlines possible ways that U.S. policies could be shifted to recognize and reverse migration as extraction and align more with these communities' demands.

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