BECOMING MEXIPINO

Multiethnic Identities and Communities in San Diego

Rudy P. Guevarra Jr.
Becoming Mexipino: Multiethnic Identities and Communities in San Diego, Rudy P. Guevarra, Jr., Rutgers University Press, 2012, 0813553261, 9780813553269, 256 pages. Becoming Mexipino is a social-historical interpretation of two ethnic groups, one Mexican, the other Filipino, whose paths led both groups to San Diego, California. Rudy Guevarra traces the earliest interactions of both groups with Spanish colonialism to illustrate how these historical ties and cultural bonds laid the foundation for what would become close interethnic relationships and communities in twentieth-century San Diego as well as in other locales throughout California and the Pacific West Coast. Through racially restrictive covenants and other forms of discrimination, both groups, regardless of their differences, were confined to segregated living spaces along with African Americans, other Asian groups, and a few European immigrant clusters. Within these urban multiracial spaces, Mexicans and Filipinos coalesced to build a world of their own through family and kin networks, shared cultural practices, social organizations, and music and other forms of entertainment. They occupied the same living spaces, attended the same Catholic churches, and worked together creating labor cultures that reinforced their ties, often fostering marriages. Mexipino children, living simultaneously in two cultures, have forged a new identity for themselves. Their lives are the lens through which these two communities are examined, revealing the ways in which Mexicans and Filipinos interacted over generations to produce this distinct and instructive multiethnic experience. Using archival sources, oral histories, newspapers, and personal collections and photographs, Guevarra defines the niche that this particular group carved out for itself.


Chicanos in California a history of Mexican Americans in California, Albert Camarillo, 1990, Social Science, 139 pages.


Violence in the fields California Filipino farm labor unionization during the Great Depression, Howard A. DeWitt, May 1, 1980, Political Science, 139 pages.

Resistance from the Margins: Mexican American Radical Activism in Los Angeles, 1930--1970 , Enrique Meza Buelna, 2007, , 405 pages. The Mexican American Left played a critical role not only in organizing and providing a voice to this community, but by engaging the larger public to recognize Mexicans as....

Vanishing Filipino Americans The Bridge Generation, Peter M. Jamero, Jul 16, 2011, , 112 pages. Documentation of Filipino history in America is largely limited to the experiences of the Manong Generation that immigrated to the U.S. during the early 1900s. Jamero documents....

Mexican Consuls and Labor Organizing Imperial Politics in the American Southwest, Gilbert G. González, Julián, Jul 5, 2010, History,. Chicano history, from the early decades of the twentieth century up to the present, cannot be explained without reference to the determined interventions of the Mexican....

Encyclopedia of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement , Matt S. Meier, Jan 1, 2000, History, 293 pages. Entries ranging in length from a paragraph to several pages document the Mexican American civil right movement..


become the nation's largest racial ethnic group. More important than sheer numbers is the fact that Latino men and women represent a significant and ....

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RUDY P. GUEVARRA JR. is an assistant professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at Arizona State University. He is the author of Filipinos in San Diego: Images of America Series, and coeditor of Transnational Crossroads: Remapping the Americas and the Pacific and Crossing Lines: Race and Mixed Race Across the Geohistorical Divide.

If you are a student of comparative history and ethnic studies as I am, and a person who seeks to uncover and learn more about the untold narratives of multiethnic bonding and shared cultural experiences of two of this country's most influential and important contributors, then Dr. Guevarra's book is a must read for you all! If you call yourself a true professor of comparative ethnic studies, or a maverick in the division of social sciences who seeks to incorporate THE REAL history of our country's interethnic social and community relations, then you must assign this book to your students to read, and read it yourself! This is an uncorrupted, original, pure and exciting new way to look at what it truly means to feel proud of, and understand the rewards of being, of mixed multiethnic background!

Set in 20th century California, the major recipient state of immigrants coming south from Mexico and east across the pacific from the Philippines, Becoming Mexipino is a major breath of fresh air of social-historical storytelling and analysis of two different ethnic groups who share a closely-knit historical past and uncharted future. A recollection of those who came by the thousands to the southern border city of San Diego and to other areas of southern California to seek opportunities and a better way of life for them and their families. Using different sources and techniques to bring to light the unheard stories of sacrifice, struggle, pain and loss, but also of triumph, progress and achievement, Dr. Guevarra weaves together two distinct yet identical narratives that overtime laid a foundation of the many interethnic bonds and communities that now blossom in southern California.

From culture and religion to local and national social and political activism, Dr. Guevarra explores how these groups overtime came to occupy the same living spaces, share the same work responsibilities, form relationships and families. Journeys of pride and responsibility, in times of social inequality and racial segregation, a backdrop of shared experiences of each led to the realization that each time these groups looked at each other it was as if they were looking at a mirror: they were Mexicanos, they were Filipinos, they were one in the same. His book is not just another historical remembrance of voices that seeks to reemphasize and reiterate what we already know; Becoming Mexipino is an alternative outlet, the memorialization, of pedagogical knowledge
that seeks to bring together generations of marginalized voices to the table for discussion, analysis, and inclusion into this country’s dominant rhetoric. As a Chicano myself, a student of multicultural studies, a firm believer in the valorization and importance of diversity and a person whose family is of mixed ethnic and cultural background, Dr. Guevarra’s book is a must-read treasure that every student and educator and any person who wants to discover and learn more about multicultural relations, the importance of mixed ethnic background and identity, and their significance to historical and contemporary ideas, must read. Read more &rsaquo;

I can honestly say this project began the day I was born. As a child, I never fully understood what my experience as a Mexipino meant, other than being instilled with a sense of pride for both my cultures. I grew up eating both Mexican and Filipino food and observed the interactions of my relatives at...

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"Mexicans, Filipinos and the Mexipino experience -- Immigration to a rising metropolis -- The devil comes to San Diego: race and spatial politics -- Survival and belonging: civil rights, social organizations, and youth cultures -- Race and labor activism in San Diego -- Filipino-Mexican couples and the forging of a Mexipino identity."

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African Americans agricultural Alvarez Angeles areas Asian Americans Barrio Berkeley canneries cannery workers Castillo-Tsuchida Chula Vista civil rights clubs Collections and University cultural Diego Labor Leader Espiritu example experiences Filipino American Filipino community Filipino Immigration Filipino labor Filipino Migrants Filipinos and Mexicans Filipinos in San fish canneries Folder Gina Lleva Griswold del Castillo groups growers Hawaiâ€™i History Ibid identity Imperial Valley included industries interethnic interracial interview with author labor organizing Labor Unionism Lemon Grove lived Logan Heights Luisa Moreno mestizo Mexican American Mexican community Mexican immigrants Mexican women Mexican workers Mexicans and Filipinos Mexico Mexipinos Migrants in San migration miscegenation multiethnic multiracial National City neighborhoods nonwhites noted ofthe Philippines population racial segregation recalled relationships residents Ricardo Romio San Diego County San Diego Labor San Diego Race San Diego Union social Spanish Special Collections U.S. Census Bureau UCAPAWA United University Archives University of California University Press

Just got my signed copy of Becoming Mexipino: Multiethnic Identities and Communities in San Diego written by Dr. Rudy P Guevarra Jr. (Arizona State University) and published by Rutgers University Press. I remember when Dr. Guevarra and I first met at a FANHS (Filipino American National Historical Society) conference in San Diego years ago. We compared notes about being Mexipino or Chicapina, as my family calls us, and, later at UCLA, I would share my stories with him officially for the honor and privilege of being included in his book.

Rashaan and other Mexipinos in San Diego are the bridges between both cultures because they live a multicultural existence. Multiethnic and multiracial people have already experienced an alternative worldview, which has positive implications. She described it in terms of the future of racial and ethnic mixing: "I think it is inevitable; Time magazine put up all the races of together to see what it [hypothetical person of the future] would look like, and it looked Filipino. You know, it’s like we’re already there, we’ve been there. We’re just bringing it to the forefront (158)