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Fall 2002

Review of *Voices of a New Chicana/o History* by Refugio Rochín and Dennis Valdes

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Garza, James A., "Review of *Voices of a New Chicana/o History* by Refugio Rochín and Dennis Valdes" (2002). *Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*. 624.
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Voices of a New Chicana/o History. Refugio Rochín and Dennis Valdés. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2000. 275pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$25.95 paper.

The demographic changes affecting America's ethnic populations are a reminder that history is in constant flux. In particular, the Latina/o population is seeing its social and political influence grow, especially in the Midwest. How will mainstream America deal with this new reality? As politicians struggle over this issue, Chicana/o scholars are also finding that past definitions no longer fit today's academic environment. *Voices of a New Chicana/o History*, an informative and stimulating compilation of fourteen essays, represents this new historical debate. Edited by Refugio I. Rochín and Dennis N. Valdés, the volume brings together a diverse group of Chicana/o scholars who drew inspiration from the conference "Towards a New Chicana/o History" held at Michigan State University in April 1996. Grouped in five distinct and useful categories, *Voices* grapples with the question of exactly what constitutes Chicana/o history and what directions should it take.

Even the proper use of the term Chicano falls into this process. As José Cuello points out in the introduction, the incorrect use of terminology can elicit controversy from scholars in the field, particularly Chicana scholars. Cuello's essay opens the path for Rodolfo Acuña, who fires off the first volley in "Truth and Objectivity in Chicano History," part of a section exploring the origins of Chicano Studies. Together with Luis Leal and Ramón Eduardo Ruiz, each of whom contributes his own essay, Acuña delves into the turbulent environment that surrounded scholarly pioneers as they struggled to incorporate a neglected history into the mainstream academic universe.

Once this was accomplished the next goal of Chicana/o scholars was to establish the dominant canon, a process that is still ongoing. Ramón A.

Gutiérrez, Dennis N. Valdés, and Louis Año Nuevo Kerr analyze this discourse from various perspectives, in particular from a geographical dimension. As Valdés points out, many historians do not think of the American Midwest as a cradle of Mexican-origin people, but in reality settlers of Mexican-origin have been putting down roots in Midwestern states for over a century, a colonization that is continuing to unfold.

The remaining three categories also discuss the shifting state of the field. Zaragosa Vargas, Martha Menchaca, María E. Montoya, Lorena Oropeza, and Stephen J. Pitti venture into the new and exciting multidisciplinary directions that Chicana/o scholarship is taking. As labor and community studies make room for approaches based on gender and culture, students and historians within and outside the field are reminded of the growing body of scholarship now available for exploration. Alberto Camarillo and Antonio Ríos-Bustamante expertly discuss the historiography of Chicana/o history, while Roberto Rodríguez, in the last piece, fuses the entire debate together in an essay on the Chicano Movement.

As many universities and colleges correctly incorporate the history of the Latina/o into their curriculum, the field continues to evolve in pace with the population it represents. Perhaps there will never be a dominant school in Chicana/o history, a potential reality that may be welcome. If *Voices* represents the new direction of Chicana/o studies, its participants will surely benefit. **James A. Garza**, *Department of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*.