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## Review of *American Arrivals: Anthropology Engages the New Immigration* Edited by Nancy Foner

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**American Arrivals: Anthropology Engages the New Immigration.** Edited by Nancy Foner. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, 2003. xi + 368 pp. Tables, appendixes, references, index. \$60.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Immigration to the United States since 1965, usually labeled “the new immigration,” has several distinguishing features. First, the predominant source nations are in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, rather than Europe. The second is a new trend within this scenario, the diversification of destinations, such that migration involves not only Los Angeles and New York, but also numerous small cities in the Prairie and Great Plains states, locations that once received Europeans and Mexicans but have been little involved in international migration for decades. In order to understand the dramatic social and cultural changes stemming from the new immigration, it is helpful to have at hand the tools of cultural anthropology, and in this book we have an excellent overview of the perspectives, methods, and findings of that field. Anthropology is notable for its locally-grounded field research, involving rich and enduring encounters with immigrant and host communities, and its holistic attention to both objective and subjective aspects of migration. The main task of Foner’s capable introduction, then, is delineating these qualities of anthropology and its track record in US immigration studies.

It is impossible in this short space to review all the chapters, but several of them merit particular notice by a Great Plains audience. A pair of chapters by Leo Chavez and Jennifer Hirsch make the important point that understanding the health situation of immigrants must include structural factors of US society (employment in non-medically insured sectors and underfunded community health systems, for example), as well as the medical cultures of the newcomers themselves and how these interact with standard US biomedicine. Alex Stepick and Carol Dutton Stepick offer a capable survey of the situation of immigrant children (and children of immigrants) in schools, focusing on the interaction of self-identity formation and school cultures, which strongly affects school experiences and outcomes. Patricia Pessar does a similarly effective review of gender and migration, while Nina Glick Schiller eloquently presents her important concept of transnationalism. That notion points to immigrants forging connections among nations across the world, such as the political, economic, and cultural exchanges occurring between settlements in the US and hometowns in Mexico. To close the volume, Richard Shweder explores the complex ethical terrain between dominant social values and free expression of minority cultures that is likely to confront communities receiving new immigrants, as it has long faced communities with Native Americans and distinctive religious groups.

In summary, this volume is a superior resource for both better understanding of practical issues (health, education, social work, and the like) and as a review of the scholarly state of the art in anthropology of the new immigration. **Josiah McC. Heyman**, *Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Texas at El Paso*.