

Queer Migrations 2: Illegalization, Detention, and Deportation

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Call for Proposals: May 1, 2017 deadline

Overview: In recent decades, migrant detentions and deportations have skyrocketed—in the United States and around the world. At the same time, possibilities for acquiring legal status have been greatly reduced or entirely cut. President Trump’s 2017 executive orders further accelerate these trends. This proposed collection brings together academics, activists, and artists to explore how LGBTQ migrants experience and resist these dynamics of illegalization, detention and deportation. The dynamics also affect citizens with migrant family members and citizens who are regularly racialized as “foreign,” as well as communities and families whose lives span national borders. Centering LGBTQ migrants, affected citizens, and cross-border communities and families as interlinked, this book, the companion to *Queer Migrations: Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings* (Luibhéid and Cantú, 2005), is the first to address not only how these groups are affected by current enforcement strategies, but also how a queer approach may contribute toward imagining migration controls and national citizenship differently.

Call for Proposals: We are seeking academic, activist and artistic contributions to this project. We will eventually publish three kinds of submissions: 1) short (1,000 words or less) reflections from activists, 2) original art works, and 3) academic research (6,000 words or less). If you are interested in being considered, for academic research, please send us an abstract of 200-400 words that includes a title and description, and a 3-page CV; for activist reflections, please send us an abstract of 100-150 words that includes a title and description, and your resume; for artwork, please send a short description or a digital image of the piece that you would like to submit, and your resume. Email these materials by **May 1, 2017** to eithne@email.arizona.edu, karma.chavez@utexas.edu, and juliosalgado83@gmail.com. After contributors have been identified, we will seek a university press to publish the volume and offer contributors a concrete timeline for completion. Activists and artists whose work is accepted will receive a modest stipend. All money earned by the volume will be donated to a queer migrant-serving organization.

Illegalization, Detention, Deportation: Centering LGBTQ Migrants and Citizens. Advocates for illegalization, detention and deportation argue that these strategies produce safety and expand economic opportunities for citizens, yet scholarship and activism strongly suggest otherwise. Instead, they show that these immigration enforcement strategies extend neocolonial, racializing, and economically exploitative ties between the U.S. and migrants’ countries; make migrants deeply vulnerable and exploitable; and legitimize exploitation, racial profiling, and violence toward U.S. citizens of color. These enforcement strategies, moreover, build on neoliberal economic logics that combine reduced social spending with expanding

incarceration in ways that have devastated poor and racialized communities in the United States and globally. When extended to immigration enforcement, neoliberalism has sanctioned the build-up of a nation-wide network of public and for-profit prisons, jails and detention centers that remain filled through the work of border agents seeking to meet detention and deportation quotas. Given that increasing numbers of U.S. families are “mixed status,” comprised of both citizens and migrants, these immigration enforcement strategies have devastated the lives of millions of citizens who live with the constant possibility of family members—undocumented and documented alike—being detained and deported. Millions of citizen children with immigrant parents also live with the constant threat of having their citizenship revoked through bills that have been introduced into Congress every single year since 1993. Their predicament underlines how harsh immigration enforcement intertwines with citizenship laws whose promise remains unfulfilled for minority groups. We seek to explore how contemporary immigration enforcement is further transforming these dynamics of unfulfilled citizenship—and how to imagine immigration control, citizenship, and the links between them, differently.

Although these developments, and their intersections with neocolonialism, racism, and economic exploitation at local, national, and transnational scales are well documented, few scholars have addressed where LGBTQ migrants, citizens, and transnational communities fit in, or what an analysis that centers sexuality and gender as axes of power, inequality, resistance, and transformation might contribute. Yet, such an exploration is very timely and strongly warranted. Nearly 1 million LGBTQ migrants live in the United States, with more than a quarter of them being undocumented. Young people at the forefront of advocating for a path to legalization for the undocumented borrowed the LGBT movement’s tactic of “coming out of the closet” to proclaim themselves “undocumented and unafraid.” Julio Salgado’s artwork helped to continue a nation-wide debate about UndocuQueer identity, and networks and organizations addressing queer migrant concerns sprang up around the nation. Mainstream LGBT organizations began to incorporate immigration issues into their platforms. LGBT migrant detention achieved national attention in 2011 when complaints were filed against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for harsh treatment. DHS created a special detention unit for LGBT migrants, yet the reports of abuse continued. In 2014 and 2015, abuses against detained trans women sparked nation-wide protests and Congressional concern. In 2015, undocumented trans migrant Jennicet Gutierrez interrupted President Obama at a White House event where she protested the abuse of detained trans immigrants; in 2016, undocumented trans and queer migrants went on public hunger strike to protest the LGBT migrant detention unit and all immigrant detentions.

Centering these developments, our collection significantly expands on work that links queer and migration studies and activisms, especially through questions about deportation, asylum, and detention. It also builds on several related fields of scholarship including critical immigration studies; critical prison studies; and queer of color, racial justice, decolonial, and trans studies scholarship. It makes a unique contribution, however, since none of these works centrally address the topics of our proposed collection: the impact of illegalization, detention, and deportation on LGBTQ

undocumented and documented migrants, and on citizens and communities that span borders. Given the apparent inability of policy makers and the general public to imagine response to migration other than continued illegalization, detention, deportation, and unmet promises of citizenship, this collection also asks contributors to imagine other queer possibilities.