

Borders, constantly made and remade, signify belonging. Whether a physical wall, a line in the sand, or a glance at a passerby between the farmer's market stalls, seen and unseen borders mark those who belong and those who are "other." Within the current trend (and within the historical ebb and flow) of rising populism and nationalism in United States politics, there is an obsession with borders as precise ways of defining who is able to claim US identity. Likewise, borders that structure who has the authority to define a community are (as they always have been) in constant flux, fighting against or fitting within these larger national politics of who belongs.

Part I of the book excavates the formation and operation of these borders as they reveal themselves within the food system and particularly within the immigrant-food nexus. As political scientists, anthropologists, urban planners, and geographers, our authors see the construction of borders and boundaries as being of paramount importance within food and migration studies today. How are cultural, physical, and geopolitical borders from the scale of the person, to the community, to the nation formed? Critically, how do these scales come to influence one another? How do national media narratives on an immigrant's "place" within the United States reveal themselves within small-town discourses on a proposed pork plant? How do lines drawn around authenticity of local food businesses speak to deeper frictions between community sovereignty and capitalized consumption of "culture"? When racist language of criminality shifts from slow structural violence to immediate physical threat toward immigrants in the United States, what forms of resistance or spaces of hospitality are possible? The authors of Part I of the book begin to answer these difficult, essential questions.



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# **The Immigrant-Food Nexus**

## **Borders, Labor, and Identity in North America**

**Edited by: Julian Agyeman, Sydney Giacalone**

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