

Of all the topics within the immigrant-food nexus, immigrant farm laborers have been given the most attention by the alternative food movement and critical food scholarship. As we discussed in our introduction, films, books, and nonprofit campaigns on the agricultural industry's reliance on and marginalization of predominantly Latinx migrants have gained increasing visibility throughout the last two decades.

This critique of marginalized labor has been criticized by many as limited and secondary to environmental and health critiques within food conversations. Even still, the literature that is available remains relatively one-dimensional: the narrative of immigrants' labor within the food system is one of Latinx (largely male) workers experiencing harmful working conditions with little agency to change or leave these conditions. While this narrative is an accurate description of a portion of immigrants' experiences within food labor, it is by no means the full picture.

Part II of this book includes four chapters that broaden the scope of inquiry into immigrant labor within the food system, and within the immigrant-food nexus more generally. These authors address the historic and ongoing marginalization of migrant labor but take this as only the starting point for a much wider discussion of the many forms and faces of immigrant labor within the food system. Immigrant laborers are not only farmworkers; they are farmers and business owners. They are not only men; they are women who command vital roles both behind the scenes and on the front lines. They are not stand-ins for technological farming solutions; the social and scientific worlds of crop production are becoming increasingly wound together to necessitate hands in the field. They are not only carrying out manual labor; they are mobilizing transnational intellectual and cultural knowledge to run and grow farming enterprises.

It is only by recognizing the multiplicity of immigrant food labor experiences that we may begin to understand the multiplicity of actors and policy arenas that intersect in the immigrant-food nexus. These four chapters are not separate stories. They are interlinked pieces of the larger labor project being enacted through and acted against daily by immigrant bodies.

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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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