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Erotic journeys: Mexican immigrants and their sex lives.

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"A startling, provocative,
and very smart book."
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About the Book

Erotic Journeys is a fascinating, revealing, and respectful examination of the romantic relationships and sex lives of the fastest-growing minority group in the nation. In a series of in-depth interviews, Gloria González-López investigates the ways in which sixty heterosexual Mexican women and men living in Los Angeles reinvent their sex lives as part of their immigration and settlement experiences. Defying a broad spectrum of preconceived notions, these immigrants confirm in their vivid narratives that sexuality—far from being culturally determined—is fluid and complex.

González-López explains that these Mexicans enter the United States with particular sexual ideologies and practices that, while diverse, are regulated by family ethics and regional patriarchies. After migration, a range of factors—including employment, the risks and dangers of resettlement, social networking with other immigrants, and the new demands of a fast-paced industrialized metropolis—begin to transform the immigrants' intimate lives in deep and unexpected ways. The remarkably candid interviews show that these men and women are skillful negotiating agents of their own sexuality. The author's incisive analysis of their narratives sets the stage for a nuanced and compelling understanding of this complex topic and its many social implications.

About the Author

Gloria González-López is an Assistant Professor of Sociology, and a Faculty Associate at the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Reviews

“A key contribution to a growing body of work on Latino/Latina sexual theory. . . . captures the fluid nature of sexuality. By giving equal weight to women’s and men’s narratives, she infuses her analysis with texture and depth.”—*Canadian Journal Of Latin American & Caribbean Studs*

“Pioneering.”—*Journal Of The Royal Anthropological Inst*

"In this innovative look at the sex lives of Mexican immigrants, Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez reveals that what goes on between the sheets is not private and isolated, but rather intimately articulated to inequalities of gender, generation and economy. Gonzalez-Lopez gives us a candid view of the dangerous and the pleasurable, showing how mind-numbing employment regimes lead to the taylorization of sex, but also to possibilities for women's enhanced sexual power and pleasure. She also shows how the existence of internalized sexism, valorization of female virginity, homo-erotic desire, male prostitution, and children's sex education respond to changes in the social organization of pre-migration and post-migration life. This is work of tremendous originality, sensitivity and courage. Read this book and shatter your stereotypes."—Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, author of *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence*

"*Erotic Journeys* will be a revelation to anyone who wants to understand the way sexuality is constructed, constrained, and evolving in an increasingly diverse and conflicted country. Gonzalez-Lopez unveils an important culture that has heretofore been known only to those who have lived within it. It may well be a model for further studies about diversity and sexuality."—Pepper Schwartz, Professor of Sociology, University of Washington, author of *Gender and Sexuality*

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