

# Justice for Migrant Families WNY

Supplemental Information for Volunteers  
Written and Compiled by Freedom for Immigrants

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## Background on the U.S. Immigration Detention System

The United States maintains the largest immigration detention infrastructure in the world, detaining approximately 441,000 persons per year.<sup>1</sup> Individuals, including lawful permanent residents with longstanding family and community ties, asylum-seekers, and survivors of human trafficking, are detained for weeks, months, and sometimes years. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detains women, men, children, and LGBTQI individuals in over 200 county jails and for-profit prisons.

The U.S. immigration detention system is a relatively recent phenomenon. Prior to the 1980s, only approximately 30 people were held in immigration detention on any given day. The 1980s gave rise to two major private profit-making prison corporations, GEO Group and Corrections Corporation of America. These corporations have successfully lobbied the government to expand detention and other forms of incarceration. A host of federal and state laws have resulted in a new prison built every 15 days throughout the 1990s.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), which doubled the number of people in immigration detention from 8,500 each day in 1996 to 16,000 in 1998. These laws gave the U.S. government the ability to deport lawful permanent residents convicted of certain crimes, required

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<sup>1</sup> Detention Watch Network. “Immigration Detention 101.”  
<http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/issues/detention-101>

victims of persecution abroad to be immediately detained when claiming asylum at a U.S. port of entry, and took discretion away from judges to grant release to certain immigrants, creating a class of individuals in “mandatory” immigration detention. Today, the detention population has increased fourfold to more than 34,000 individuals each day, due in part to a Congressionally mandated lock-up quota.

This lock-up system is not only inhumane, but also a massive waste of taxpayer dollars. Congress has allocated a huge budget to immigration detention. ICE estimates that it costs the government \$12,500 to deport each individual, but when the costs of apprehension, detention, legal processing, and transportation are combined, the government spends more than \$23,000 to deport each person. Detention alone cost taxpayers approximately \$2 billion in 2015.

Since no independent oversight of the system is in place, people in immigration detention are vulnerable to abuse. Immigrants in detention facilities around the United States are often subjected to punitive and long-term solitary confinement.<sup>2</sup> They are provided inadequate medical care, vulnerable to rape and assault, and often isolated from access to legal assistance and community support.

## U.S. Immigration Policy and Discrimination

The history of immigration policy in the United States is interwoven with racism and economic motivations. Racial classifications that would not be permitted elsewhere in American law are explicitly accepted in immigration law. The first significant law restricting immigration into the United States was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. It suspended Chinese immigration for ten years and declared the Chinese ineligible for naturalization. The Chinese Exclusion Act was not repealed until 1943.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, policies continued to give preference to immigrants from specific European countries in order to keep the country’s “white” character intact.<sup>3</sup> The groups who have been able to benefit from the privileges of whiteness have changed over time to include and exclude people from various countries.<sup>4</sup> People commonly classified today as white were historically racialized as foreigners and treated as being of distinct and inferior races.

It is well known that Black and Brown people have always been disproportionately represented in the criminal enforcement system, and that this criminalization of Black and and Brown people accelerated mass incarceration. President Richard Nixon’s domestic policy chief John Ehrlichman has admitted that

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<sup>2</sup> Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center and Physicians for Human Rights. *Invisible in Isolation: The Use of Segregation and Solitary Confinement in Immigration Detention*. September 20, 2012.  
[http://www.immigrantjustice.org/sites/immigrantjustice.org/files/Invisible%20in%20Isolation-The%20Use%20of%20Segregation%20and%20Solitary%20Confinement%20in%20Immigration%20Detention.September%202012\\_7.pdf](http://www.immigrantjustice.org/sites/immigrantjustice.org/files/Invisible%20in%20Isolation-The%20Use%20of%20Segregation%20and%20Solitary%20Confinement%20in%20Immigration%20Detention.September%202012_7.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Joshua Miller, and Ann Marie Garran. *Racism in the United States: Implications for the helping professions*. 2017. p. 193.

<sup>4</sup> Racial Equity Tools. “Immigration and Refugee Rights.”  
<http://www.raciaequitytools.org/plan/issues/immigration-and-refugee-rights>

the War on Drugs was devised to criminalize Black communities in the 1970s,<sup>5</sup> and during the Reagan and Bush administrations, the War on Drugs evolved into a War on Immigrants. Congressional initiatives in 1988 amended the Immigration Nationality Act to place noncitizens convicted of certain drug offenses alongside those convicted of murder in the newly created category of aggravated felons. Two years later, the Immigration Act of 1990 greatly expanded the number of crimes that were considered to be aggravated felonies, including federal and state drug offenses.<sup>6</sup>

Anti-immigrant policies continue to fuel racial violence and propel police and government abuses with impunity.<sup>7</sup> ICE enforcement and collaboration with local police rely heavily on racial profiling. 287(g) agreements, which allow state and local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE, enable police officers to enforce federal immigration laws even when stopping people for minor traffic violations. A substantial body of research, as well as judicial decisions, suggest that people of color are more likely to be racially profiled and stopped by police. A 2009 report found that the vast majority (87%) of jurisdictions which have implemented 287(g) programs have high Latino immigrant growth rates, suggesting that they may have been adopted in response to nativist fears.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to crime and immigration laws motivated by race, the U.S. government has adopted unwritten policies that disproportionately affect other vulnerable populations, such as LGBTQ immigrants. A recent study by the Center for American Progress found that ICE officers overwhelmingly use their discretion to detain LGBTQ immigrants.<sup>9</sup> Once in detention, LGBTQ immigrants are at a higher risk for abuse; one in four substantiated incidents of sexual abuse in immigration detention involved a transgender individual over a recent four-year period.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, as immigration judges have unbridled discretion in certain cases, LGBTQ immigrants pursuing immigration relief on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity often face discriminatory attitudes in the immigration court system that lead to case denials.

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<sup>5</sup> Tom LoBianco. CNN. "Report: Aide says Nixon's war on drugs targeted blacks, hippies." March 24, 2016.

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/23/politics/john-ehrllichman-richard-nixon-drug-war-blacks-hippie/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> Jeff Yates, Todd A. Collins, & Gabriel J. Chin. "A War on Drugs or a War on Immigrants? Expanding the Definition of "Drug Trafficking" in Determining Aggravated Felon Status for Noncitizens" 64 Md. L. Rev. 875. 2005. <http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3236&context=mlr>

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Immigrant Community Action Network (HURRICANE). "Injustice for All: The Rise of the U.S. Immigration Policing Regime."

[http://www.nnirr.org/~nnirrorg/drupal/sites/default/files/injustice\\_for\\_all\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](http://www.nnirr.org/~nnirrorg/drupal/sites/default/files/injustice_for_all_executive_summary.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Justice Strategies. "Local Democracy on ICE: Why State and Local Governments Have No Business in Federal Immigration Law Enforcement." February 27, 2009.

[\[\[http://www.justicestrategies.org/publications/2009/local-democracy-ice-why-state-and-local-governments-have-no-business-federal-immig](http://www.justicestrategies.org/publications/2009/local-democracy-ice-why-state-and-local-governments-have-no-business-federal-immig)

<sup>9</sup> Sharita Gruberg. Center for American Progress. "ICE Officers Overwhelmingly Use Their Discretion to Detain LGBT Immigrants." October 26, 2016.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/reports/2016/10/26/291115/ice-officers-overwhelmingly-use-their-discretion-to-detain-lgbt-immigrants>

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office. "Immigration Detention: Additional Actions Could Strengthen DHS Efforts to Address Sexual Abuse." November 20, 2013. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-38>

# Glossary of Immigration Terms

**Asylee:** A person who has been granted the relief of asylum in the United States due to fear of persecution in their native country for the same reasons as refugees. Immediately after obtaining asylum, asylees are authorized to work in the United States and one year later, an asylee can apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status. Like all other LPRs after five more years, the asylee can apply for U.S. citizenship.

**Asylum seeker:** A person seeking refuge in the country in which he or she currently resides due to persecution faced in his/her native country. People who apply for asylum at an airport or other point of entry into the United States are detained. *The difference between refugees and asylum seekers is that asylum seekers are physically present in the United States or at a U.S. border and are seeking permission to remain in the United States, while refugees are outside the United States and are seeking resettlement in the United States.*

**Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA):** the highest administrative body within the Department of Justice that interprets and applies immigration law. The BIA hears appeals of decisions made by Immigration Judges (IJs). These decisions are binding unless overturned by the Attorney General or a federal circuit court.

**Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS, or USCIS):** the bureau within DHS that administers applications for immigration benefits such as visas, adjustment of status, and naturalization. The USCIS Asylum Officer Corps makes decisions on affirmative asylum claims.

**Corrections Corporation of America (CCA)/CoreCivic:** one of the private corrections contractors that work with the FBI, ICE, and the U.S. Marshal Service. CCA has over 60 facilities and houses more than 80,000 people in immigration detention and in other forms of confinement. Similar contracts are given to GEO Group, Emerald Correctional Management, and Management & Training Corp. Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) rebranded itself as CoreCivic in October 2015.

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** charged with “protecting” the United States. In 2003, though the Department of Homeland Security Act, DHS absorbed most of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and took on its duties. DHS split immigration-related duties among three separate agencies: (CIS)-Citizenship and Immigration Services, (ICE)-Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and (CBP)-Customs and Border Protection.

**Deportation/Removal:** expulsion of a noncitizen from the United States. People who can be deported include noncitizens (including lawful permanent residents) with criminal convictions;

visa overstays; refugee/asylum seekers; and those who entered without inspection (for example, by crossing the border unlawfully). Once removed, a noncitizen faces legal bars for a time period that prevent his or her return or sometimes they are permanently barred.

**Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR):** the agency within the Department of Justice that administers all Immigration Courts, including those inside the detention centers, and the BIA. It is a separate agency from ICE, which is in the Department of Homeland Security. EOIR judges determine defensive asylum claims and other claims for relief from removal during removal proceedings.

**Expedited Removal:** A section of 1996 laws used to deport many noncitizens without a hearing before an Immigration Judge. Expedited removal can be imposed on people the government finds “inadmissible” at any border entry point. Under expedited removal, individuals can be removed on an order issued by an immigration officer. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) began implementing the expedited removal provisions of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) in 1997.

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** the bureau within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that enforces immigration laws and conducts the apprehension, detention and deportation of immigrants. ICE used to be part of what was known previously as the INS or Immigration and Naturalization Service.

**Immigration Detention:** People are detained at every step of the “immigration process”: (1) awaiting adjudication of asylum or adjustment applications; (2) pending preparation of the notice to appear (NTA) that formally starts a removal proceeding; (3) pending immigration proceedings; (4) after a removal order, while ICE is actively trying to remove them; and (5) sometimes indefinitely, when ICE knows it may not be able to deport someone with a removal order, perhaps because of a lack of travel documents.

**Intensive Supervision Assistance Program (ISAP) and the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP):** Alternatives To Detention (ATDs) that ensure close and frequent contact by ICE with someone granted supervised release. Those enrolled in these programs typically must make regular visits to an ICE officer or subcontractor and check in through telephone calls. Many people are also required to wear electronic ankle bracelets, and are subject to curfew and other reporting requirements. These programs are frequently utilized for people who have final orders of removal but whom ICE cannot deport (for example, because of lack of travel documents, or a country’s refusal or inability to accept an immigrant).

**Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR):** an immigrant with a “green card” who has been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. An immigrant can become a permanent resident in several different ways. Most individuals are sponsored by a family member or employer in the United States. Other individuals may become LPRs through refugee or asylee status or other humanitarian programs. LPRs have essentially the same rights and obligations as

U.S. citizens with the exceptions of voting and holding certain public offices and civil service positions. However, LPRs can be detained or deported for certain offenses, including misdemeanors punishable by one or more years in jail. After five years (three years in certain circumstances), an LPR can apply for U.S. citizenship.

**Non-immigrant:** a person who has been lawfully admitted to the United States for a specific purpose (e.g. work or study) for a temporary stay that will end when its purpose has been accomplished and the visa expires.

**Parolee:** a non-citizen to whom the Attorney General has granted a temporary stay for humanitarian or public interest purposes and who can be detained at any time. Parolee status expires after one year (renewable at the U.S. government's discretion), and most parolees are prohibited from applying for lawful permanent residency (LPR) "green card" or citizenship.

**Prosecutorial Discretion:** the authority of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to refrain from placing a potentially deportable person in deportation proceedings; suspend or even terminate a deportation proceeding; postpone a deportation; release someone from detention; or de-prioritize the enforcement of immigration laws against someone because it does not serve enforcement interests. Widely used during the Obama Administration, but has become unavailable as a matter of policy since the Trump Administration took office.

**Refugees:** people seeking protection and a safe place to live outside their country of origin who is unable or unwilling to return because of past persecution and/or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Each year, a certain number of refugees are selected by the U.S. State Department to undergo several security screenings and enter the United States through the Refugee Resettlement Program. One year after arriving in the United States, a refugee can apply to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR), and after five more years, can apply for U.S. citizenship.

**Voluntary Departure:** DHS or an Immigration Court may, in its discretion, allow a person to depart from the US at his or her own expense in lieu of removal. DHS and/or the Immigration Court will set a finite period, usually about 120 days, to depart the US. If the person fails to depart, they will be subject to fines and a 10 year period of ineligibility for other forms of relief. Immigrants with aggravated felonies are ineligible for voluntary departure.

#### A Few Further Notes on Terminology

- **"Illegal" or "Alien":** JFMF WNY denounces the use of degrading terms, such as "alien" and "illegal (immigrant)," to describe undocumented immigrants because it casts them as inhuman outsiders who come to the United States with questionable motivations. "Alien" is a term used in the Immigration and Nationality Act to refer to non-citizens, but it should be avoided unless used in a quote. The term "illegal immigrant" stereotypes undocumented persons who are in

the United States and suggests that they have all committed crimes. Under current U.S. immigration law, entering the United States without inspection or overstaying a visa is not a crime; it is a civil violation. Although “undocumented immigrant” is not ideal nomenclature, we use it, “non-citizen” or “non-status immigrant” for lack of better terms.

- **“Detainee:”** Likewise, when describing someone who is currently detained, we believe that “detained immigrant/person” or “person in immigration detention” are the best terms, insofar as the discussion is actually related to their detention. Dehumanizing language like “detainee” serves only to reinforce the stripping of people in detention of their fundamental human rights.

## Immigration & Anti-Oppression Reading List

We encourage visitor volunteers to review the [Immigration Syllabus](#) created by several immigration historians affiliated with the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society in 2017.<sup>11</sup> The syllabus comprises essential topics, readings, and multimedia that provide historical context to current debates over immigration reform, integration, and citizenship. While it follows a chronological overview of U.S. immigration history, it also includes thematic “weeks” that cover salient issues in political discourse today such as xenophobia, deportation policy, and border policing. The syllabus also includes primary sources and multimedia, and, when available, links to the resources online.

In addition, visitor volunteers have recommended several books, films, and other resources on immigration and wider anti-oppression topics to the Freedom for Immigrants network. These have been listed below and we hope to continue to expand the list!

### Books

***Aftermath: Deportation Law and the New American Diaspora*** by Dan Kanstroom. 2012. Since 1996, when new, harsher deportation laws went into effect, the United States has deported millions of noncitizens back to their countries of origin. While the rights of immigrants—with or without legal status—as well as the appropriate pathway to legal status are the subject of much debate, hardly any attention has been paid to what actually happens to deportees once they “pass beyond our aid.” In fact, we have fostered a new diaspora of deportees, many of whom are alone and isolated, with strong ties to their former communities in the United States.

***After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965***, by Libby Garland. In 1921 and 1924, the United States passed laws to sharply reduce the influx of immigrants into the country. By allocating only small quotas to the nations of southern and eastern Europe, and banning

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<sup>11</sup> [Immigration Syllabus](#) by several immigration historians affiliated with the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society in 2017.

almost all immigration from Asia, the new laws were supposed to stem the tide of foreigners considered especially inferior and dangerous. Jews, one of the main targets of the quota laws, figured prominently in the new international underworld of illegal immigration.

***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. 2015. In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion.

***Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security*** by Todd Miller. 2014. Traveling the country—and beyond—to speak with the people most involved with and impacted by the Border Patrol, Todd Miller combines first-hand encounters with careful research to expose a vast and booming industry for high-end technology, weapons, surveillance, and prisons. While politicians and corporations reap substantial profits, the experiences of millions of men, women, and children point to staggering humanitarian consequences.

***Brother, I'm Dying*** by Edwidge Danticat. 2008. From the age of four, award-winning writer Edwidge Danticat came to think of her uncle Joseph as her "second father," when she was placed in his care after her parents left Haiti for America. And so she was both elated and saddened when, at twelve, she joined her parents and youngest brothers in New York City. As Edwidge made a life in a new country, adjusting to being far away from so many who she loved, she and her family continued to fear for the safety of those still in Haiti as the political situation deteriorated.

***Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible*** by M. Daniel Carroll R. 2013. An internationally recognized immigration expert helps readers think biblically about this divisive issue, offering accessible and sympathetic guidance for the church.

***Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*** by Roger Daniels. 2002. With a timely new chapter on immigration in the current age of globalization, a new Preface, and new appendixes with the most recent statistics, this revised edition is an engrossing study of immigration to the United States from the colonial era to the present.

***Deported: Immigrant Policing, Disposable Labor and Global Capitalism*** by Tanya Maria Golash-Boza. 2015. Weaving together hard-hitting critique and moving first-person testimonials, *Deported* tells the intimate stories of people caught in an immigration law enforcement dragnet that serves the aims of global capitalism. Tanya Golash-Boza uses the stories of 147 of these deportees to explore the racialized and gendered dimensions of mass deportation in the United States, showing how this crisis is embedded in economic restructuring, neoliberal reforms, and the disproportionate criminalization of black and Latino men.

***Dreams and Nightmares: I Flew Alone to the United States When I Was Fourteen*** by Liliana Velásquez. 2017. At fourteen, Liliana Velásquez walked out of her village in Guatemala and headed for the U.S. border, alone. On her two-thousand-mile voyage she was robbed by narcos, rode the boxcars of La Bestia, and encountered death in the Sonoran Desert. When she was caught by Immigration in Arizona, she thought her journey was over. But it had just begun.

***Drug War Capitalism*** by Dawn Paley. 2014. Though pillage, profit, and plunder have been a mainstay of war since pre-colonial times, there is little contemporary focus on the role of finance and economics in today's "Drug Wars"—despite the fact that they boost US banks and fill prisons with poor people.

***Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother*** by Sonia Nazario. 2007. Enrique's Journey recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers.

***Everyday Illegal: When Policies Undermine Immigrant Families*** by Joanna Dreby. 2015. With vivid ethnographic details and a striking narrative, *Everyday Illegal* forces us to confront the devastating impacts of our immigration policies as seen through the eyes of children and their families. As legal status influences identity formation, alters the division of power within families, and affects the opportunities children have outside the home, it becomes a growing source of inequality that ultimately touches us all.

***Family Activism: Immigrant Struggles and the Politics of Noncitizenship*** by Amalia Pallares. 2014. During the past ten years, legal and political changes in the United States have dramatically altered the legalization process for millions of undocumented immigrants and their families. Faced with fewer legalization options, immigrants without legal status and their supporters have organized around the concept of the family as a political subject—a political subject with its rights violated by immigration laws.

***Foreign Relations: American Immigration in Global Perspective*** by Donna R. Gabaccia. 2012. Histories investigating U.S. immigration have often portrayed America as a domestic melting pot, merging together those who arrive on its shores. Yet this is not a truly accurate depiction of the nation's complex connections to immigration. Offering a brand-new global history of the subject, *Foreign Relations* takes a comprehensive look at the links between American immigration and U.S. foreign relations.

***Forgotten Citizens: Deportation, Children, and the Making of American Exiles and Orphans*** by Luis H. Zayas. 2015. In *Forgotten Citizens*, Luis Zayas holds a mirror to a nation in crisis, providing invaluable perspectives for anyone brave enough to look. Zayas draws on his extensive work as a mental health clinician and researcher to present the most complete picture yet of how immigration policy subverts children's rights, harms their mental health, and leaves lasting psychological trauma.

***Fourth City: Essays from the Prison in America*** edited by Doran Larson. 2014. At 2.26 million, incarcerated Americans not only outnumber the nation's fourth-largest city, they make up a national constituency bound by a shared condition. *Fourth City: Essays from the Prison in America* presents more than seventy essays from twenty-seven states, written by incarcerated Americans chronicling their experience inside.

***From Deportation to Prison: The Politics of Immigration Enforcement in Post-Civil Rights America*** by Patrisia Macías-Rojas. 2016. Criminal prosecutions for immigration offenses have more than doubled over the last two decades, as national debates about immigration and criminal justice reforms became headline topics. Drawing on over a decade of ethnographic and archival research, the findings in this book reveal how the Criminal Alien Program quietly set off a punitive turn in immigration enforcement that has fundamentally altered detention, deportation, and criminal prosecutions for immigration offenses.

***Immigrant America: A Portrait*** by Alejandro Portes and Rubén G. Rumbaut. 2014. Updated with the latest available data, *Immigrant America* explores the economic, political, spatial, and linguistic aspects of immigration; the role of religion in the acculturation and social integration of foreign minorities; and the adaptation process for the second generation.

***The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*** by Jason De Leon. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves* reveals the suffering and deaths that occur daily in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona as thousands of undocumented migrants attempt to cross the border from Mexico into the United States. Drawing on the four major fields of anthropology, De León uses an innovative combination of ethnography, archaeology, linguistics, and forensic science to produce a scathing critique of "Prevention through Deterrence," the federal border enforcement policy that encourages migrants to cross in areas characterized by extreme environmental conditions and high risk of death.

***Our God is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice*** by Ched Myers and Matthew Colwell. 2012. The principle of hospitality and the commandment to welcome the stranger are among the most consistent themes of the Bible. How does that apply to the question of undocumented immigrants in our own country?

***Returned: Going and Coming in an Age of Deportation*** by Deborah Boehm. 2016. *Returned* follows transnational Mexicans as they experience the alienation and unpredictability of deportation, tracing the particular ways that U.S. immigration policies and state removals affect families. Deportation—an emergent global order of social injustice—reaches far beyond the individual deportee, as family members with diverse U.S. immigration statuses, including U.S. citizens, also return after deportation or migrate for the first time.

***The Right to Stay Home: How US Policy Drives Mexican Migration*** by David Bacon. 2013. People across Mexico are being forced into migration, and while 11 percent of that country's population lives north of the US border, the decision to migrate is rarely voluntary. Free trade agreements and economic policies that exacerbate and reinforce extreme wealth disparities make it impossible for

Mexicans to make a living at home. And yet when they migrate to the United States, they must grapple with criminalization, low wages, and exploitation.

***Rights, Deportation, and Detention in the Age of Immigration Control*** by Tom K. Wong. 2015. This book examines what are arguably the most contested and dynamic immigration policies—immigration control—across 25 immigrant-receiving countries, including the U.S. and most of the European Union. It addresses head on three of the most salient aspects of immigration control: the denial of rights to non-citizens, their physical removal and exclusion from the polity through deportation, and their deprivation of liberty and freedom of movement in immigration detention.

***Sanctuary and Asylum: A Social and Political History*** by Linda Rabben. 2016. The practice of sanctuary—giving refuge to the threatened, vulnerable stranger—may be universal among humans. From primate populations to ancient religious traditions to the modern legal institution of asylum, anthropologist Linda Rabben explores the long history of sanctuary and analyzes modern asylum policies in North America, Europe, and elsewhere, contrasting them with the role that courageous individuals and organizations have played in offering refuge to survivors of torture, persecution, and discrimination.

***The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*** by Stephen Castles, Hein de Haas, and Mark J. Miller. 2013. This authoritative work offers a global perspective on the nature of migration flows, why they occur, and their consequences for both origin and destination societies. Chapters provide up-to-date descriptions and comparative analyses of major migration regions in the North and South.

***Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal*** by Aviva Chomsky. 2014. In this illuminating work, immigrant rights activist Aviva Chomsky shows how “illegality” and “undocumentedness” are concepts that were created to exclude and exploit. With a focus on US policy, she probes how people, especially Mexican and Central Americans, have been assigned this status—and to what ends.

***Undoing Border Imperialism*** by Harsha Walia. 2013. *Undoing Border Imperialism* combines academic discourse, lived experiences of displacement, and movement-based practices into an exciting new book. By reformulating immigrant rights movements within a transnational analysis of capitalism, labor exploitation, settler colonialism, state building, and racialized empire, it provides the alternative conceptual frameworks of border imperialism and decolonization.

***We Too Sing America: South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Immigrants Shape Our Multiracial Future*** by Deepa Iyer. 2015. In *We Too Sing America*, nationally renowned activist Deepa Iyer catalogs recent racial flashpoints, from the 2012 massacre at the Sikh gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, to the violent opposition to the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and to the Park 51 Community Center in Lower Manhattan. Iyer asks whether hate crimes should be considered domestic terrorism and explores the role of the state in perpetuating racism through detentions, national registration programs, police profiling, and constant surveillance.

## Children's Books

***Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation*** by Edwidge Danticat and Leslie Staub. 2015. After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. To ease the distance between them while she's in jail, Mama begins sending Saya bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore on cassette tape. Moved by her mother's tales and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya writes a story of her own—one that just might bring her mother home for good.

***Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis*** by Jabari Asim and E.B. Lewis. 2016. Celebrating ingenuity and dreaming big, this inspirational story about John Lewis, who grew up to be a member of the Freedom Riders, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and demonstrator on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

***We Came to America*** by Faith Ringgold. 2016. From the Native Americans who first called this land their home, to the millions of people who have flocked to its shores ever since, America is a country rich in diversity. Some of our ancestors were driven by dreams and hope. Others came in chains, or were escaping poverty or persecution. No matter what brought them here, each person embodied a unique gift—their art and music, their determination and grit, their stories and their culture.

***We Need New Names*** by NoViolet Bulawayo. 2013. Darling and her friends live in a shanty called Paradise, which of course is no such thing. It isn't all bad, though. There's mischief and adventure, games of Find bin Laden, stealing guavas, singing Lady Gaga at the tops of their voices. They dream of the paradises of America, Dubai, Europe, where Madonna and Barack Obama and David Beckham live.

## Films & Documentaries

***The Betrayal***. 2009. After the U.S. government waged a secret war in Laos during the Vietnam War, Thavisouk ("Thavi") Phrasavath's father and thousands of other Laotians who had fought alongside American forces were abandoned and left to face imprisonment or execution. Hoping to find safety, Thavi's family made a harrowing escape to America, where they discovered a different kind of war.

***Crossing Arizona***. 2006. A collection of personal accounts stemming from Arizona's illegal immigration crisis.

***Crossing Over: Stories of Immigration and Identity***. 2014. Three transgender Mexican immigrants navigate different stages of political asylum in Los Angeles - all striving to establish stability and support systems in a foreign city.

**DOCUMENTED.** 2014. In 2011, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas outed himself as an undocumented immigrant in the New York Times Magazine. *DOCUMENTED* chronicles his journey to America from the Philippines as a child; his public struggle as an immigration reform activist/provocateur; and his journey inward as he reconnects with his mother, whom he hasn't seen in 20 years.

**El Norte.** 1982. Brother and sister Enrique and Rosa flee persecution at home in Guatemala and journey north, through Mexico and on to the United States, with the dream of starting a new life. A work of social realism imbued with dreamlike imagery, *El Norte* is a lovingly rendered, heartbreaking story of hope and survival, which critic Roger Ebert called "a *Grapes of Wrath* for our time."

**Immigration Battle.** 2015. In *Immigration Battle*, a special two-hour feature film presentation from Frontline and Independent Lens, acclaimed independent filmmakers Shari Robertson and Michael Camerini take viewers behind closed doors in Washington's corridors of power to explore the political realities surrounding one of the country's most pressing and divisive issues.

**Jaula de Oro.** 2015. Three teenagers from the slums of Guatemala travel to the US in search of a better life. Travelling together in cargo trains, walking on the railroad tracks, they soon have to face a harsh reality.

**Latino Americans.** 2013. *Latino Americans* is the first major documentary series for television to chronicle the rich and varied history and experiences of Latinos, who have helped shape the United States over the last 500-plus years and have become, with more than 50 million people, the largest minority group in the U.S.

**Life in the Deportee Slums of Mexico.** 2013. About 40 percent of Mexican immigrants deported from the US are sent back through Tijuana. Many of the deported border crossers have established a makeshift shantytown inside a dry, concrete riverbed where the Tijuana River once flowed—called El Bordo.

**Out of Status.** 2007. Pia Sawhney and Sanjna N. Singh examine the actions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service after 9/11 and the devastating repercussions for America's Muslims. Focusing on the experiences of four Muslim families between January 2003 and July 2005, the film portrays the immigration services as a "uniquely dysfunctional" bureaucracy whose actions were motivated less by effectiveness than by the desire to appear proactive.

**Sentenced Home.** 2006. Putting a human face on controversial immigration policy, *Sentenced Home* follows three young Cambodian Americans through the deportation process. Raised in inner city Seattle, they pay an unbearable price for mistakes they made as teenagers. Caught between their tragic pasts and an uncertain future, each young man confronts a legal system that offers no second chances.

**Sin Nombre.** 2008. From the studio that brought you the award-winning films, *The Motorcycle Diaries* and *Traffic*, comes the highly-acclaimed epic of two teens on a dangerous journey of hope.

***Solitary Nation***. 2014. With extraordinary access, award-winning producer and director Dan Edge takes you to the epicenter of the raging debate about prison reform. *Solitary Nation* brings you an up-close, graphic look at a solitary confinement unit in Maine’s maximum security prison.

***Victoria Para Chino***. 2004. In May 2003 a refrigerated truck carrying more than 80 illegal immigrants from the Mexican border drove into the heartland of Texas. A deadly combination of heat and overcrowding lead to tragedy. This is a story of that journey.

## Podcasts

[1965 Immigration Law Changed Face of America](#). 2006. National Public Radio.

[Carlos Eire: A Cuban-American Searches For Roots](#). 2010. National Public Radio.

[Indefensible](#). 2017. Immigrant Defense Project.

[Witnessing the Migration Crisis Across Borders](#). 2017. Society for Applied Anthropology.

## Essays, Syllabi, & Other Resources

[“Immigration Detention Syllabus”](#) by Tina Shull. 2017.

[“Prison Abolition Syllabus”](#) by Dan Berger, Garrett Felber, Kali Gross, Elizabeth Hinton, and Anyabwile Love. 2016.

[“Black Lives Matter Syllabus”](#) by Frank Leon Roberts. 2016.

[“The Case for Reparations”](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates. 2014.

[“The Justice of the Immigration Court & the Power of its Judge King”](#) by Ana M. Fores Tamayo. 2016.

[“White Privilege: Unpacking the Privilege Knapsack”](#) by Peggy McIntosh. 1988.