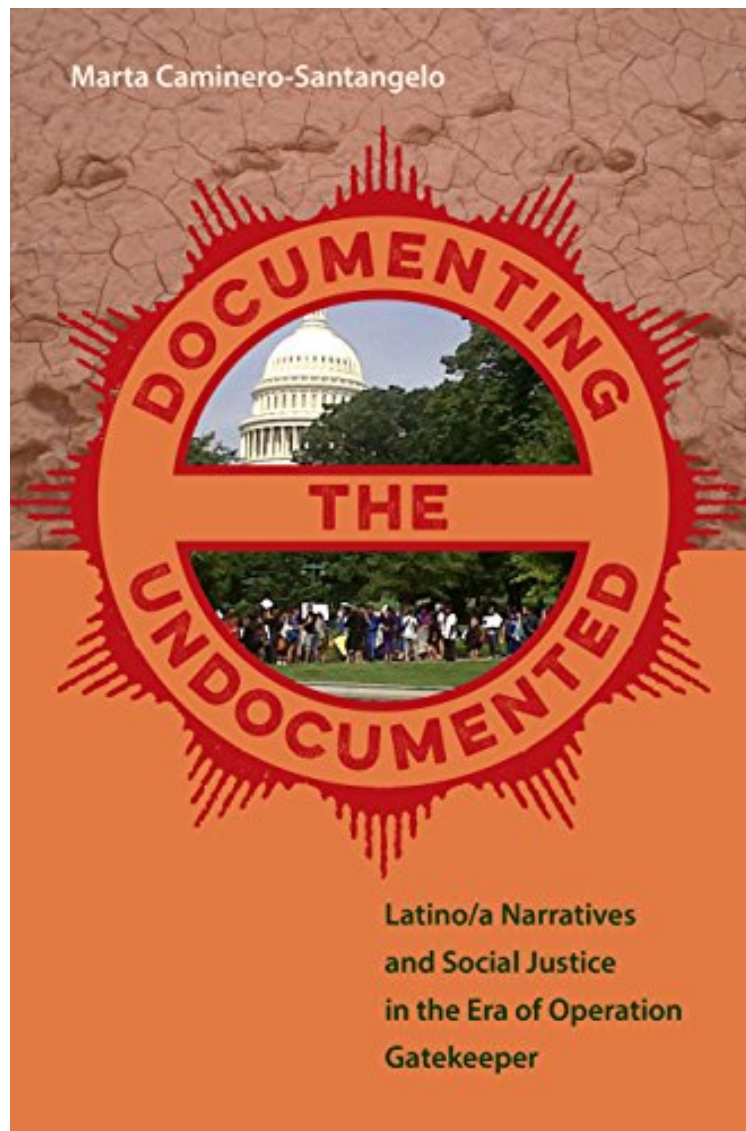


(Ebook pdf) Documenting the Undocumented: Latino/a Narratives and Social Justice in the Era of Operation Gatekeeper

Documenting the Undocumented: Latino/a Narratives and Social Justice in the Era of Operation Gatekeeper

Marta Caminero-Santangelo

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Gatekeeper:

Looking at the work of Junot Diaz, Cristina Garcia, Julia Alvarez, and other Latino/a authors who are U.S. citizens, Marta Caminero-Santangelo examines how writers are increasingly expressing their solidarity with undocumented immigrants. Through storytelling, these writers create community and a sense of peoplehood that includes non-citizen Latino/as. This volume also foregrounds the narratives of unauthorized migrants themselves, showing how their stories are emerging into the public sphere. Immigration and citizenship are multifaceted issues, and the voices are myriad. They challenge common interpretations of "illegal" immigration, explore inevitable traumas and ethical dilemmas, protest their own silencing in immigration debates, and even capitalize on the topic for the commercial market. Yet these texts all seek to affect political discourse by advancing the possibility of empathy across lines of ethnicity and citizenship status. As border enforcement strategies escalate along with political rhetoric, detentions, and deaths, these counternarratives are more significant than ever before, and their perspectives cannot be ignored. What we are witnessing, argues Caminero-Santangelo, is a mass mobilization of stories. This growing body of literature is critical to understanding not only the Latino/a immigrant experience but also alternative visions of nation and belonging.

"This unique study is vital for its analysis of contemporary fiction on immigration and its inclusion of testimonios by those who have experienced the difficulties of living undocumented in the U.S."--Choice "While the U.S. immigration debate turns strident in media circles, Caminero-Santangelo intervenes with a call to read carefully the more complex stories that define us as human and humane."--Debra A. Castillo, coeditor of *Mexican Public Intellectuals* About the Author Marta Caminero-Santangelo, professor of English at the University of Kansas, is the author of *On Latinidad: U.S. Latino Literature and the Construction of Ethnicity* and *The Madwoman Cant Speak: Or Why Insanity Is Not Subversive*.