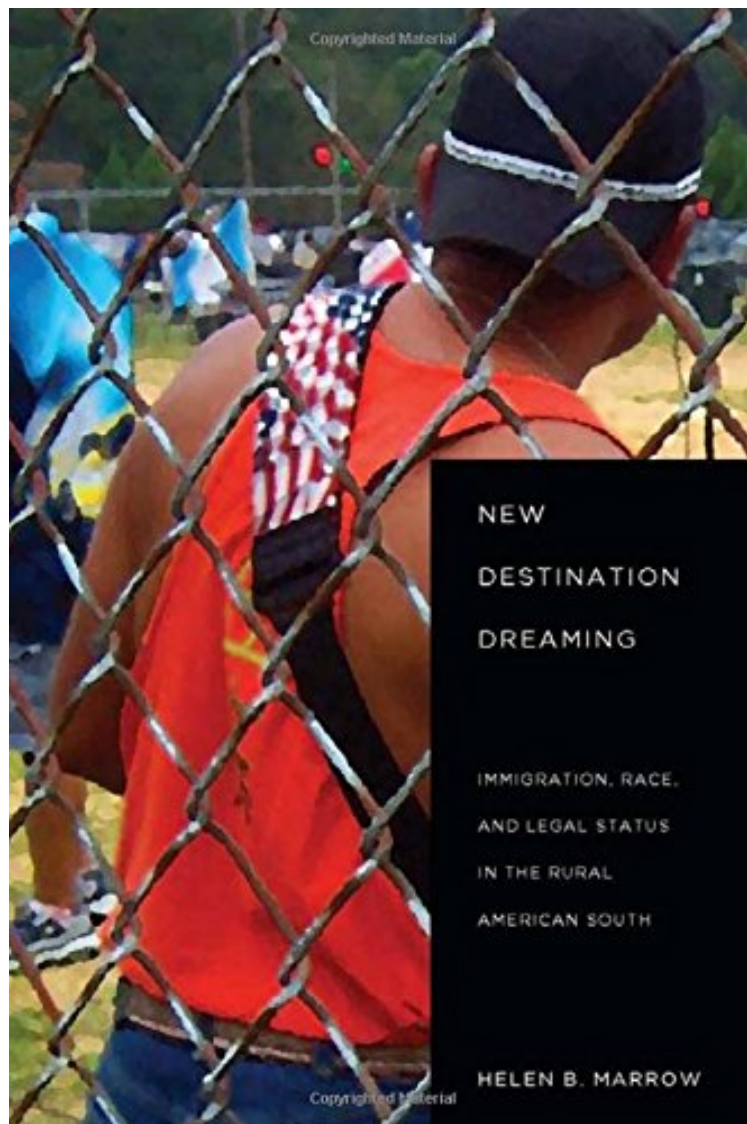


(Download free ebook) New Destination Dreaming: Immigration, Race, and Legal Status in the Rural American South

## New Destination Dreaming: Immigration, Race, and Legal Status in the Rural American South

*Helen Marrow*

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**Helen Marrow : New Destination Dreaming: Immigration, Race, and Legal Status in the Rural American South** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Destination Dreaming: Immigration, Race, and Legal Status in the Rural American South:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but LimitedBy Simple ScholarIn "New Destination

Dreaming," sociologist Helen Marrow examines two counties in Eastern North Carolina, Bedford and Wilcox, which have had an increasing Latino presence in the last few years. The former county has a black-majority population, while the latter has a white-majority. Marrow uses these two counties to differentiate the experiences of Latinos when confronted in different racial contexts. Regardless of county or racial context, Marrow finds that Latinos struggle, to varying degrees, with making the South home. Most importantly, the individual context of the interviewee matters. Marrow argues in the conclusion that incorporation was strongly affected by the particular structures, actors, and goals and missions that made up the specific institutional spaces in which they were embedded (Marrow 2011, 235). Some Latinos dislike the South because it is too rural, closed-minded, restricting, religious, patriarchal, and homogeneous. Other Latinos, to the contrary, enjoy it because the South reminds them of home, it is relatively cheap, and they enjoy the hospitality and religious nature of the South. Marrow finds that the rural southern immigrant experience is more positive than we expected it to be and that whites seem to be more welcoming to Latinos than they are to blacks (239). One noticeable problem with this book concerns methodology. While qualitative methods are very appropriate in this context, questions about Marrow's techniques inevitably arise. First, Marrow is not explicit about what her dependent, independent, and control variables are. Although it is a qualitative study, these should be better defined. Second, Marrow seems to be inserting too much bias in her research. There seems to be no particular method to what stories she tells in each section. The result is that the readers do not know whether Marrow is favoring her favorite interviewees and the more interesting stories over the boring ones. Why did she not provide more tables or cross-tabs showing the differences concerning the cumulative opinion of her population? Third, by limiting her analysis to the counties of Bedford and Wilcox, Marrow has a case study of two counties and over one hundred interviews. This is problematic because her research is not adequately diverse to represent North Carolina or the Latino Southern experience. Moreover, what makes the two companies the food-packaging plant and the textile mill representative of Southern business? In sum, Marrow's research seems biased by a lack of diverse data. This is not to say it is useless; on the contrary, many insights can be gathered from the book. The question, therefore, is: to what extent does this research have universal value? It would be interesting to see the same study reproduced in ten or fifteen years, especially if the opinions of the interviewees have changed. In particular, it would be interesting whether as many Latinos have the same optimistic views as they did in the mid-2000s. Moreover, if this study is reproduced, it may be beneficial to compare Latinos working in factories to Latinos working in the service industry (like a McDonalds in Bedford or Wilcox county).

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Personal, engaging, insightful  
By Donald W. Light  
This very readable book would help students learn about the lives of recent immigrants. By the time I read the engaging Introduction, I knew I was in the hands of a master of immigration literature who linked recent trends to personal lives. Starting with her own experiences growing up in Tarboro, North Carolina, Helen Marrow blends insights into the rapid influx of immigrants to the mid-South with the experiences of Carmen, Ignacio, Hugo, Raquel, and many others she interviewed in depth. Through chapters on the economy and limited mobility, racial relations with blacks and whites, the regulatory ambivalence of law officers, getting medical care, and getting an education, readers will come to understand both intimate details and larger patterns. Marrow draws up some conclusions that raise a challenge: are American lawmakers going to be part of the problem or part of the solution?

New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles have long been shaped by immigration. These gateway cities have traditionally been assumed to be the major flashpoints in American debates over immigration policy but the reality on the ground is proving different. Since the 1980s, new immigrants have increasingly settled in rural and suburban areas, particularly within the South. Couple this demographic change with an increase in unauthorized immigrants, and the rural South, once perhaps the most culturally and racially "settled" part of the country, now offers a window into the changing dynamics of immigration and, more generally, the changing face of America. *New Destination Dreaming* explores how the rural context impacts the immigrant experience, how rapid Hispanic immigration influences southern race relations, and how institutions like schools and law enforcement agencies deal with unauthorized residents. Though the South is assumed to be an economically depressed region, low-wage food processing jobs are offering Hispanic newcomers the opportunity to carve out a living and join the rural working class, though this is not without its problems. Inattention from politicians to this growing population and rising black-brown tensions are both factors in contemporary rural southern life. Ultimately, Marrow presents a cautiously optimistic view of Hispanic newcomers' opportunities for upward mobility in the rural South, while underscoring the threat of anti-immigrant sentiment and restrictive policymaking that has gripped the region in recent years. Lack of citizenship and legal status still threatens many Hispanic newcomers' opportunities. This book uncovers what more we can do to ensure that America's newest residents become productive and integrated members of rural southern society rather than a newly excluded underclass.

"With *New Destination Dreaming*, Helen B. Marrow has established herself as one of the most insightful and original scholars on the dispersion of the immigrant Latino population. By taking economic context, class configurations, and race relations seriously, Marrow shows how newcomers encounter both promise and peril in the Deep South." (Rubn Hernandez-Len, University of California Los Angeles) "*New Destination Dreaming* is an important study. Marrow's

brilliant analysis of the incorporation of Hispanic immigrants into the rural and small-town South is replete with original insights. Guided by a sophisticated theoretical framework, Marrow uses an imaginative research design (based on ethnographic field work, semi-structured interviews, and participant observation) to ask questions that have not been raised before. In the process she collects rich comparative data that are rigorously and creatively examined. This book is a must-read, especially for students of immigration, and race and ethnic relations." (William Julius Wilson)"Immigration has come to small town America, and in *New Destination Dreaming* Helen Marrow offers a penetrating look at how Latino immigrants are faring in two rural southern counties. Drawing on rich observations and detailed interviews, she chronicles the efforts of hard-working migrants of humble origins and tenuous legal status to survive and even prosper in a foreign land while negotiating the complex and often conflicting currents of race, class, and citizenship. The book focuses a clarifying lens on the challenges of assimilation in places that have little experience of diversity beyond the black-white color line and no real history of immigration. It shines new light on old issues and will be of interest to all serious students of immigration." (Douglas S. Massey)" . . .[*New Destination Dreaming*] provides much food for thought . . ." (Gregory Weeks *American Journal of Sociology*)

About the Author  
Helen B. Marrow is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tufts University. She is a coeditor of *The New Americans: A Guide to Immigration since 1965* (2007).