

La Vida Aqui: Negotiating Fatherhood and Family in Post Industry

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ABSTRACT

This work is part of a larger qualitative study that investigates the intersection of the informal economy, fatherhood, and masculinity for young immigrant Mexican and Mexican American men living in Southwest Detroit, Michigan. It explores the following questions: What importance do young Chicano and Mexicano men place on their fatherhood? Is there substantial variation of the decisions young men make relative to their family arrangements based on their citizenship status? Are household arrangements and family relations at all influential in how or to what extent young Chicano and Mexicano men go about doing father work? Most studies involving fatherhood issues are limited because of their one-dimensional focus. Consequently our understanding of the related issues is very narrow: either only from a male's perspective or from a female's perspective; seldom is there a synthesized view. However, history bears out that Latino families are extended and complicated systems, and that women are important architects of family relations that affect survival in harsh environments.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rudy G. Hernandez was born and raised in Detroit, Mich., where he completed his undergraduate studies at Wayne State University. Currently, he is a lecturer and Assistant Professor in Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at the University of Michigan-Flint. He earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University's Department of Sociology where his focus of study was primarily on Latino youth and family issues. Professionally, he worked several years with youth throughout Michigan and was a King-Chavez-Parks Research Fellow while working with JSRI. He also served as the Director for Undergraduate Diversity in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at MSU.