

Violence Experienced in Immigrant Communities

Katherine Flores
Utah State University

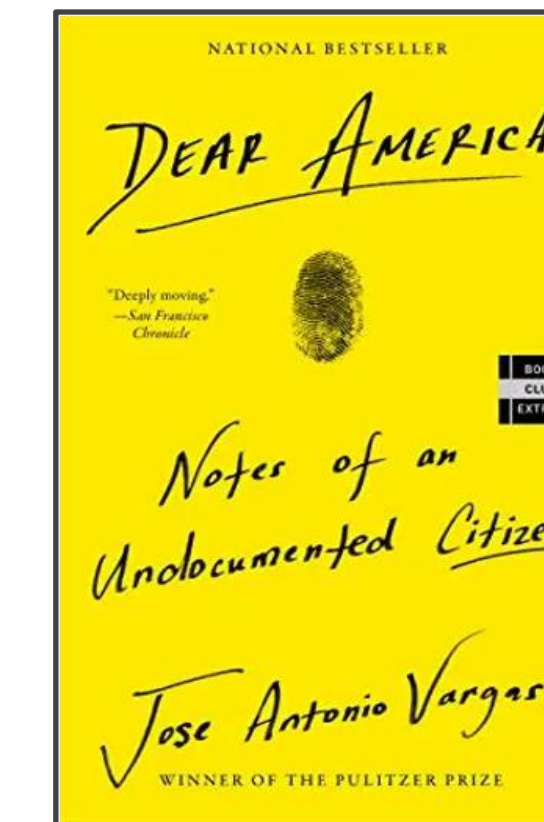
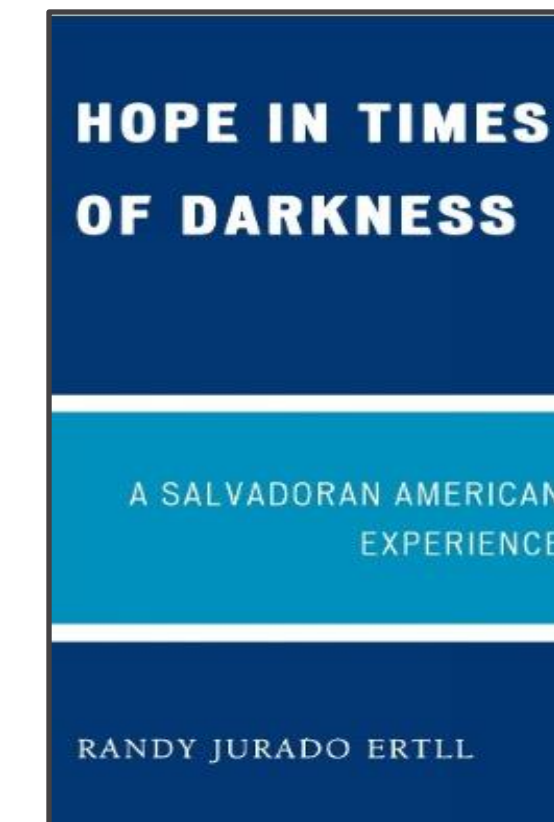
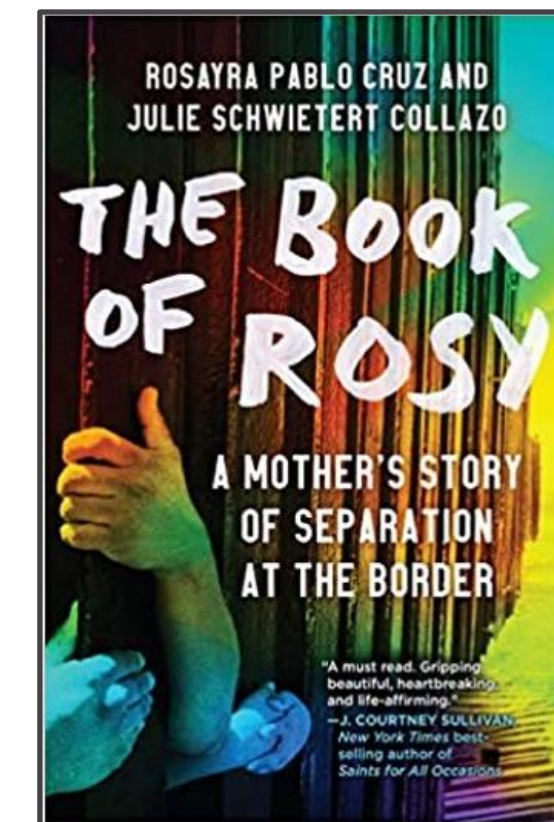
Introduction

Violence is sadly not a new concept to those in immigrant communities. Many immigrants leave their home country for the United States in hopes of finding a better life, not just for themselves but for their families as well.

Sadly, what awaits them here, in many cases, is the same thing that they were running from. Violence takes many faces, such as street gangs and domestic violence, and immigrants experience more injustices such as racism and economic struggles.

Through these narratives, one can see the struggles of what it means to be an immigrant in the United States and the process through which they were able to achieve the dreams they were looking for through perseverance and dedication to make a change.

Latinx Literature



"I look at poverty as violence, I look at immigration as violence, I look at the school system as violence, I look at racism as violence and that healing from that is just as important". -Ziana

"When even your president feels incapable of protecting you, you know you are in severe danger" -Cruz

"Some were abused at school, too. It's no wonder they felt that they needed to escape by joining a gang" -Ertll

There was-and still is-a feeling of shame that if you didn't speak English, it meant you weren't smart." -Arce

Mechanisms of Moral Disengagement

1. Reconstruct conduct so it isn't viewed as immoral
 - a. Moral Justification
 - b. Euphemistic labeling
 - c. Advantageous comparison
2. Minimize own role in causing harm
 - a. Displacement of responsibility
 - b. Diffusion of responsibility
3. Disregard or distort the consequences of aggression
4. Perceive victims as deserving
 - a. Attribution of blame

"...women face a set of barriers that place them in a cycle of violence, namely the fear of deportation, losing their children, and not being aware of their rights".
-Goncalves & Matos, 2016

Conclusion

In the face of adversity, individuals, families, and communities create narratives based on the trauma and violence they experience. Yet, their fierce determination to build a better life despite all the uphill battles that they must face is something that should be acknowledged and supported in their journey for the American Dream.

