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Review: Indigenous Borderlands: Native Agency, Resilience, and Power in the Americas, edited by Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez

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sources such as domestic intelligence reports on bracero recruitment centers, make the book brimmed with a wealth of new archival finds. Further, this is not your grandpa's state-centered history: learning from the social historians of recent years, García pays substantial attention to the letters and petitions of braceros themselves to understand the ways that local politicians' manipulation of bracero contracts impacted ordinary lives, in many cases pushing men to migrate undocumented rather than through the official program.

As I read through this exciting contribution to the field, I found myself wondering what García might have made of another popular source from recent social histories, the massive online oral history collection at Bracero History Archive. My own impression is that experiences winning contracts from local mayors and state-level deputies make scant appearance in those interviews. I am convinced by García's argument that the politicization of bracero selection was ubiquitous on the local level; what, then, might we make of the fact that so many braceros have constructed narratives about their participation in the program that excise these politicized moments? This is just one of many intriguing questions that scholars building on García's work may take up in the future.

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JULIE M. WEISE

Indigenous Borderlands: Native Agency, Resilience, and Power in the Americas. Edited by Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 2023. 364 pp.)

Over the past quarter century or so, scholars of Native American history have increasingly focused their attention on the remarkable resistance, resilience, and adaptability of indigenous Americans to European colonization. Historian Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez's edited compilation *Indigenous Borderlands* seeks to enhance our understanding of Indian responses to colonization, especially through the application of multidisciplinary methods of research and analysis. These multidisciplinary approaches, the author argues, can shed new light on the complexities of Euro-Indian relations while pointing out important new avenues for further research.

Covering a wide chronological and geographical span (from the sixteenth century U.S. South to twentieth-century Bolivia), the book contains eleven chapters and a brief epilogue that are divided into four sections. The first section explores multidisciplinary approaches to Native American history and

provides convincing examples of how reliance on Spanish documentary evidence impedes a broader or more nuanced understanding of Euro-American relations. The second section explores indigenous power and leadership. Robbie Ethridge's chapter entitled "When Giants Walked the Earth," for example, examines Chief Tascalusa's interactions with the Hernando de Soto expedition and the Indian leader's motivations in these interactions. The book's third section examines "imagined borderlands" and explores how uncritical acceptance of colonial sources can distort indigenous realities and lead to inaccurate conclusions. The final section, *Indigenous Sovereignty in Unexpected Places*, examines Spanish claims of dominance in regions (Argentina, New Mexico, and Bolivia) where Native peoples exercised considerable autonomy.

The chapters included in *Indigenous Borderlands* are first rate—well written, researched, and argued. They are quite specialized and best suited for graduate students or a scholarly audience. Consistent with the book's emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches, the contributors hail from several different scholarly fields. The book provides compelling evidence for the "new" Native American history that focuses on indigenous resilience, resistance, and adaptability rather than the "traditional" assessment that Native Americans were passive victims with limited agency and collapsing autonomy. The authors also make a convincing case on the desirability and necessity of employing a multidisciplinary approach to amplify indigenous voices and to throw fresh light on new types of evidence. Unfortunately, the authors offer no insights on implementation. For many (if not most) historians, pursuing a multidisciplinary approach is problematic. Most historians do not possess the requisite subject-matter knowledge in geology, botany, anthropology, linguistics, genetics, and so forth to draw conclusions that will escape scholarly scrutiny (and perhaps ridicule). Collaboration with specialists in ancillary fields may be difficult to arrange or simply not possible for scholars outside academia or employed at non-research-intensive institutions. The admissibility of multi-authored works for tenure and promotion is another issue that could pose a barrier to historians interested in multi-disciplinary collaboration. In short, employing a multi-disciplinary approach—while desirable and maybe even necessary—is a difficult endeavor. The editor and contributors to *Indigenous Borderlands*, consequently, are to be commended for their diligence, open-mindedness, and passion to challenge historians to consider new ways of gathering and interpreting evidence.

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