Undocumented Youth Along the Borderlands of Texas: Resisting Modernity

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Geographic Context
Secondary Border
Ethnographic Study

- 30 Full Time UTPA Students
- Formal & Informal Interviews
- Spanish & English
- Estimated 600 undocumented students are enrolled at UTPA
Research Question

❖ How do undocumented citizen students understand their current and future sense of social place?
❖ How did you get here?
❖ How do you perceive your situation?
❖ Why do you continue to attend school despite legal barriers for employment?
❖ What are your expectations for the future?
Findings

- Acculturated Goals Parallel to U.S. Born Peers.
- Rejected Pejorative Labels. (Alien, Illegals, Etc.)
- Utilized Multiple Networks for Access and Success in Higher Education. (Friends, Family, Counselors)
Habermas and Bauman characterizes modernity as a drive toward order, design, management, naming and segregation. (Zaretsky, 1992)

Consequences:
- Devaluing of Traditional Knowledge
- Creation of the Other
- Dependent on Inside/Outside Groups
Migration and Modernity

What are we up against?

- Global Capitalism
- Neoliberal Policies
- Rationalized Cultural Systems [Value Politics]
Student Resistance


- Creating Alliance with Multiple Social Global Movements.

- Creating New Identities of Resistance and Dignity.