



Border Matters: Remapping American Cultural Studies

José David Saldívar

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Border Matters locates the study of Chicano culture in a broad social context. José Saldívar examines issues of representation and expression in a diverse, exciting assortment of texts—*corridos*, novels, poems, short stories, punk and hip-hop music, ethnography, paintings, performance, art, and essays. Saldívar provides a sophisticated model for a new kind of U.S. cultural studies, one that challenges the homogeneity of U.S. nationalism and popular culture by foregrounding the contemporary experiences and historical circumstances facing Chicanos and Chicanas.

This intellectually adventurous, politically engaged study applies borderlands and diaspora theory to Chicano cultural practices in a way that permanently changes our understanding of both the Chicano experience and the meaning of cultural theory. Defying national (and nationalistic) paradigms of culture, Saldívar argues that the culture of the borderlands is trans-national, constituting a social space in which new relations, hybrid cultures, and multi-voiced aesthetics are negotiated.

Saldívar's critical readings treat culture as a social force and reveal the presence of social contexts within cultural texts. *Border Matters* maps out a new terrain for the study of culture, reshaping the way we understand migration, national identity, and intellectual inquiry itself.

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From Reader Review Border Matters: Remapping American Cultural Studies for online ebook

Nicolas Shump says

As the subject states, this is a book that wants to shift the focus of American Cultural Studies away from the East-West Manifest Destiny trajectory. It is definitely theoretical, but when I sat in on a grad class reading this text, the majority of the students were lukewarm or indifferent to it. Which might serve as support of Saldivar's project, but I think too that most of us had no familiarity with the "texts" he used.

Jonathan Leal says

In lucid prose, José David Saldívar entwines the literary, aural, and visual productions of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands to extract from their dissonances a new map of American cultural studies. This map—bumpy and characterized by difference—is as much a call for an improved mode of critical inquiry as a celebration of the Américas' varied voices.
