

Cultural Sociology

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Cultural sociology is widely acknowledged as one of the most vibrant areas of inquiry in the social sciences across the world today. The Palgrave Macmillan Series in Cultural Sociology is dedicated to the proposition that deep meanings make a profound difference in social life. Culture is not simply the glue that holds society together, a crutch for the weak, or a mystifying ideology that conceals power. Nor is it just practical knowledge, dry schemas, or know how. The series demonstrates how shared and circulating patterns of meaning actively and inescapably penetrate the social. Through codes and myths, narratives and icons, rituals and representations, these culture structures drive human action, inspire social movements, direct and build institutions, and so come to shape history. The series takes its lead from the cultural turn in the humanities, but insists on rigorous social science methods and aims at empirical explanations. Contributions engage in thick interpretations but also account for behavioral outcomes. They develop cultural theory but also deploy middle-range tools to challenge reductionist understandings of how the world actually works. In so doing, the books in this series embody the spirit of cultural sociology as an intellectual enterprise.

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Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky

The Boundaries of Belonging

Online Work of Immigration-Related Social
Movement Organizations

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To the memory of Iwan and Nadja Jaworsky

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SERIES EDITOR PREFACE

The Boundaries of Belonging makes significant contributions empirically and theoretically. Certainly, Jaworsky is the first to document the massive online political discourse currently devoted to American immigration, for and against. The Internet is central to contemporary cultural-political communication, and this pioneering work demonstrates how to study its agenda-setting power. Jaworsky's contributions go beyond merely documenting this virtual contestation. Through massive exposure and creative interpretive readings, she provides a sophisticated hermeneutical reconstruction of this contest's central organizing themes: family, citizenship, and values.

These shared themes point to the theoretical achievements of *The Boundaries of Belonging*. Arguments about family, citizenship, and values revolve around the kind of sacred-versus-profane conflict that the Strong Program in cultural sociology places at the center of modern life. Jaworsky shows that these binaries provide shared symbolic references for both sides of the immigration fight. The issue is not what sacred values matter, but how continuing immigration undermines or supports them.

For this symbolic contestation to be properly understood, Jaworsky demonstrates, social movement theory must be connected to cultural sociology, and she conceptualizes the synthesis here. She also connects Strong Program ideas about binaries and symbols to the discussion of boundaries in current ethnicity theory. The blurring, crossing, shifting, maintaining and solidifying social-cum-legal boundaries that sociologists of ethnicity have revealed, Jaworsky demonstrates, can occur only in relation to binary symbolic structures that define the morally sacred and the immorally profane.

This exciting book will have a wide audience among social scientists specializing in immigration and social movements, as well as among cultural sociologists and generalists concerned with sociological theory.

Jeffrey C. Alexander

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Writing a book is hardly a solitary effort. I have been nurtured and supported by many individuals along this journey. From the moment I first visited the website of the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University, I have known that being a *cultural* sociologist would be the “calling” for my midlife career change. I have been fortunate enough to have Jeffrey C. Alexander as a mentor and a friend to help me navigate the shift to academic life. I am very grateful for his continued support, from his sage guidance as my dissertation adviser to his strong encouragement in the process of actualizing this book. Other influences at Yale, including those of Ron Eyerman and Philip Smith, along with my colleagues at the Center, have contributed to my development as a scholar and researcher.

At Masaryk University, I have been able to further develop as a cultural sociologist. The heads of the sociology department, first Radim Marada and then Csaba Szalo, have been incredibly supportive, both practically, in adjusting to life in the Czech Republic, and collegially, in allowing me tremendous academic freedom in teaching and research. A very generous postdoc grant under the program “Employment of Newly Graduated Doctors of Science for Scientific Excellence” (grant number CZ.1.07/2.3.00/30.0009), co-financed from European Social Fund and the state budget of the Czech Republic, has provided me the opportunity to research and write this book. And my heartfelt thanks go out to one colleague in particular here at the department. Werner Binder has endured my constant questions about cultural sociology and its application to “real life.” He undertook a

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Finally, my theoretical interest in the “boundaries of belonging” reaches back to my childhood. As the daughter of immigrants raised in an ethnoreligious community, I grew up constantly pondering what it meant to be an “American” at the same time that I was a Ukrainian Catholic. I only wish my parents, Iwan and Nadja Jaworsky, were here to witness the outcome of all that contemplation. Their spirit is forever with me.

CONTENTS

1	Debating Immigration	1
2	The Boundaries of Belonging	35
3	Family Matters	67
4	The Price of Citizenship	113
5	Evaluating Values	171
6	Symbolic Boundaries in Action	227
	Appendix: Thematic Coding Categories	257
	Bibliography	259
	Index	285

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONAL ACRONYMS

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
American Immigration Control Foundation (AICF)
Americans for Immigration Control, Inc. (AIC)
Americans for Legal Immigration PAC (ALIPAC)
America's Voice (AV)
Center for Immigration Studies (CIS)
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Dream Action Coalition (DAC)
Evangelical Immigration Table (EIT)
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)
Justice for Immigrants (JFI)
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON)
National Immigrant Youth Alliance (NIYA)
National Immigration Forum (NIF)
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)
Negative Population Growth (NPG)
Numbers USA (NUSA)

People Improving Communities through Organizing's Campaign for
Citizenship (PICO)

Progressives for Immigration Reform (PFIR)

Reform Immigration for America (RIFA)

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Tea Party Patriots (TPP)

United We Dream (UWD)

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 3.1	Graphic © Campaign for Citizenship, PICO National Network, used with permission	81
Fig. 4.1	Graphic © AFL-CIO, used with permission	120
Fig. 4.2	Graphic © NumbersUSA, used with permission	132

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1	Immigrant Rights SMOs, by type	15
Table 1.2	Immigration Control SMOs, by type	18
Table 6.1	Culture structures by dimension	229