

In her work, Camelia Tigau focuses on analyzing skilled migration, the communication of the diasporas, and scientific diplomacy, centering on the flow of skilled migrants from Mexico to the United States, and particularly the opportunities and challenges they face. Her academic production rigorously consults specialized secondary sources and generates valuable primary information needed to support theories and form a foundation for the analysis of the media discourse that has had an impact on the perception of migration and the implementation of public policies, specifically in recent years.

In this book, interviews are a valuable source of information and of enriching testimonies. Among those interviewed in addition to skilled migrants are consuls, coordinators of associations, and activists in groups of non-skilled Mexicans, to provide contrast.

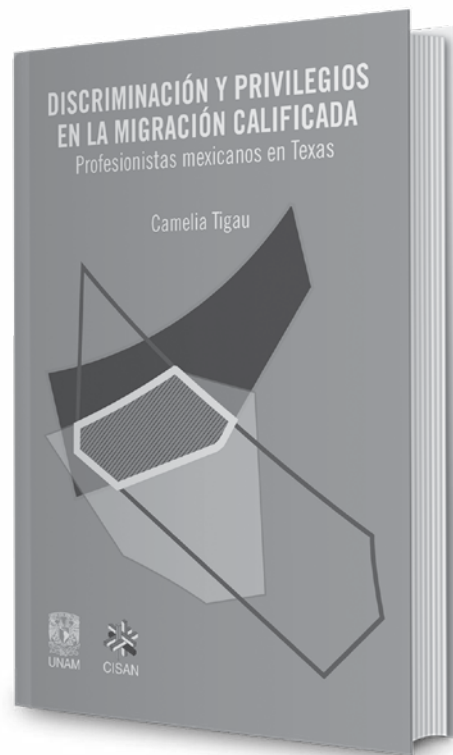
Methodologically speaking, the most valuable aspect, both because of its originality and its applicability to other migratory contexts, is that the author develops an analytical model of rejections and privileges among skilled migrants. Its macro- and micro-social components make it possible to determine the possibilities of skilled migrants' return or permanence in their countries of origin or destination, respectively. In addition, it is useful for determining the level of skilled migrants' integration as a function of their profession, whether they be engineers, businesspersons, doctors, academics, or students.

The author focuses on a segment of Mexican migrants to the United States who can to a certain extent be considered privileged due to the opportunities they have access, to but who have nevertheless not escaped the highly damaging effect of prejudices and discrimination by different U.S. actors over the years. This reflection gains objectivity by situating the phenomenon in the period starting in the early twentieth century and taking the reader through the key events until the second decade of the current century.

Each chapter can be read separately; however, reading them in order allows us to understand the subject matter comprehensively. The first chapter deals with the concepts of minorities and discrimination. Chapters two and three present a historical analysis of skilled migration, centering on the Mexican communities in Texas from the

early twentieth century until today, and then before and after the Trump presidency. Chapters four and five study the prejudices, class bias, and racism inside the Mexican community in Texas, both community-wide and individually. Chapter five puts forward the aforementioned model of rejection and privileges. Chapter six studies a contrast group made up of migrants of non-Mexican backgrounds. And lastly, the epilogue presents the results of an experiment in which young Mexicans who intend to migrate participated.

The book creates awareness about the challenges facing skilled migrants by reminding the reader of the results of the almost 70-year militant struggle of Mexicans in Texas, the roots and functioning of populism, analyzing it based on two key moments: the populism that could be foreseen before Trump took office and populism in action, after he took office, as well as their impact on the



**Discrimination and Privileges in Skilled Migration.
Mexican Professionals in Texas**

Camelia Tigau

CISAN, UNAM

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perception of skilled migration as a negative phenomenon. It also deals with the interactions between skilled and unskilled migrants. The section that analyzes the tensions among the different kinds of Mexicans living in the United States is particularly important.

Given the abundant literature about traditional migration, Tigau's research into the diaspora and organization of skilled Mexican migrants is useful and original. Another especially interesting aspect of the book is that it covers loss of status as part of the migratory process, something that mainly affects highly skilled migrants.

It is also relevant to look at the point of view of other minorities regarding Mexico to have a comprehensive view of the phenomenon, as well as the chapter about the different circumstances (armed conflict, dictatorships, absence of political freedom) that groups of skilled migrants from other countries leave behind when they go to the United States. The book also explores certain transnational spaces where skilled migrants participate based on their professions.

In my opinion, one of this work's merits is that it delves into unprecedented areas, covering gaps in the information, above all with regard to the obstacles skilled migrants face, and disregards single-cause analyses. Its precise description of the phenomenon of Mexican immigration in the current context of the United States is also original, as is the author's examination of out-of-date, persistent forms of behavior in U.S. society that make it possible to understand the prejudices and discrimination skilled migrants are subject to. She also recognizes that discrimination can exist or not according to the generation the migrants belong to, their ages, gender, and professions. In her epilogue, she even states that this discrimination does not seem to be a criterium for deciding to emigrate or not, at least among young people.

Tigau takes up discussions about generic and skilled migration that have not been sufficiently dealt with, particularly from the point of view of public policy. This is the case of the proposal of selecting migrants based on their educational levels, which could perpetuate discrimination and the reproduction of stereotypes, or her discussion of radical right-wing populism, which affects immigrants' rights rather than reducing their number.

The author's theoretical points for explaining sociological aspects that affect acts of discrimination are also opportune, such as the work of Gordon W. Allport, given

the timeliness of many of his postulates, or that of Banulescu-Bogdan, who explains how populism capitalizes on anxiety about migration. Tigau's reflection about the possibility that discrimination may be generational is also salient, since young people seem to be the least discriminated against.

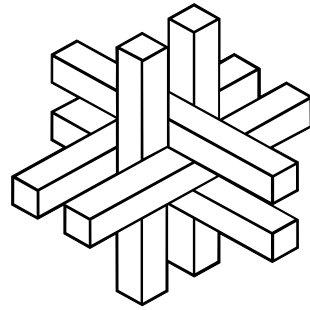
Her reasoning about Mexicans' continuing problems of integration into U.S. society since the beginning of the twentieth century is also pertinent. It is noteworthy that, since 1979, scholars have pointed out the disadvantage of belonging to an ethnic group, a minority, and being a woman, and how, even today, highly skilled immigrants continue to suffer for it in U.S. society, and that they face the challenges of belonging to three minorities: gender, ethnic, and professional. Nevertheless, one interesting conclusion is understanding migration as a source of empowerment for women in terms of being able to exercise their professions and being autonomous.

In addition, the author looks into the contradictory nature of living in Texas, where prejudices against undocumented migrants are transferred to skilled migrants, whose contribution to the local economy is simultaneously recognized and valued. In this sense, Tigau's vision of how co-national networks can counteract discrimination instead of becoming a source of those prejudices is interesting, as is her reflection about migration as a process of social harmonization that offers an experience for human growth and greater awareness.

Lastly, she opens the door to future lines of research, such as the impact of government policy on the professionals' migration, the role of immigrant professional women, the role of prejudices versus cultural incompatibilities, and the implications of migrants' not being able to return to their homelands because they cannot leave their jobs, do not have enough money to do so, or because conditions in their home countries make it impossible, among other issues. For this reason, Camelia Tigau's work is a valuable theoretical and empirical contribution to a comprehensive understanding of skilled migration, and her observations are very pertinent for the design of appropriate public policies. ■■■

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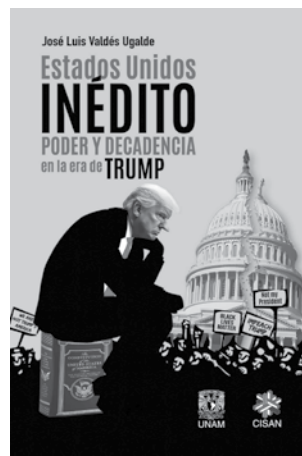
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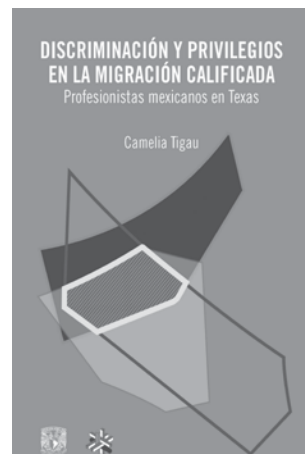
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