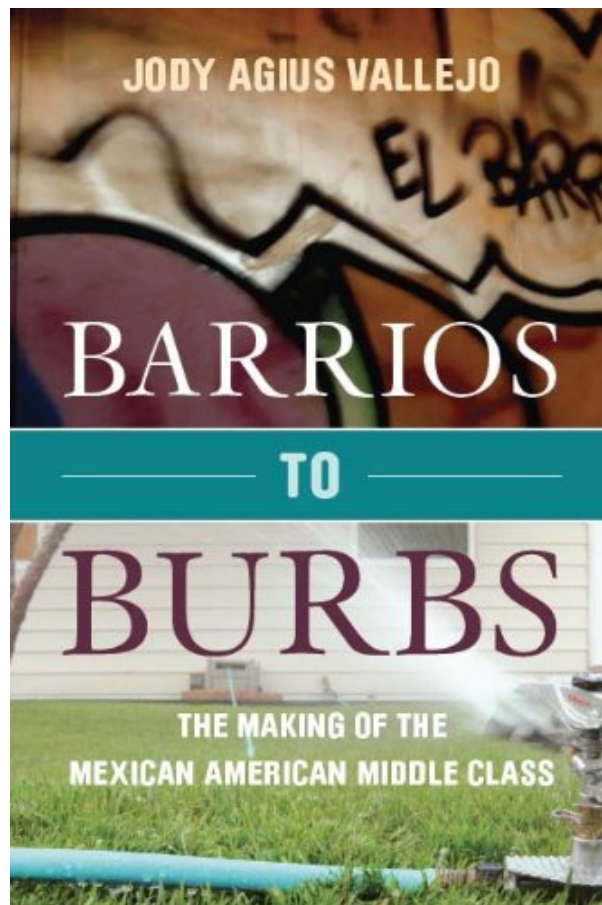
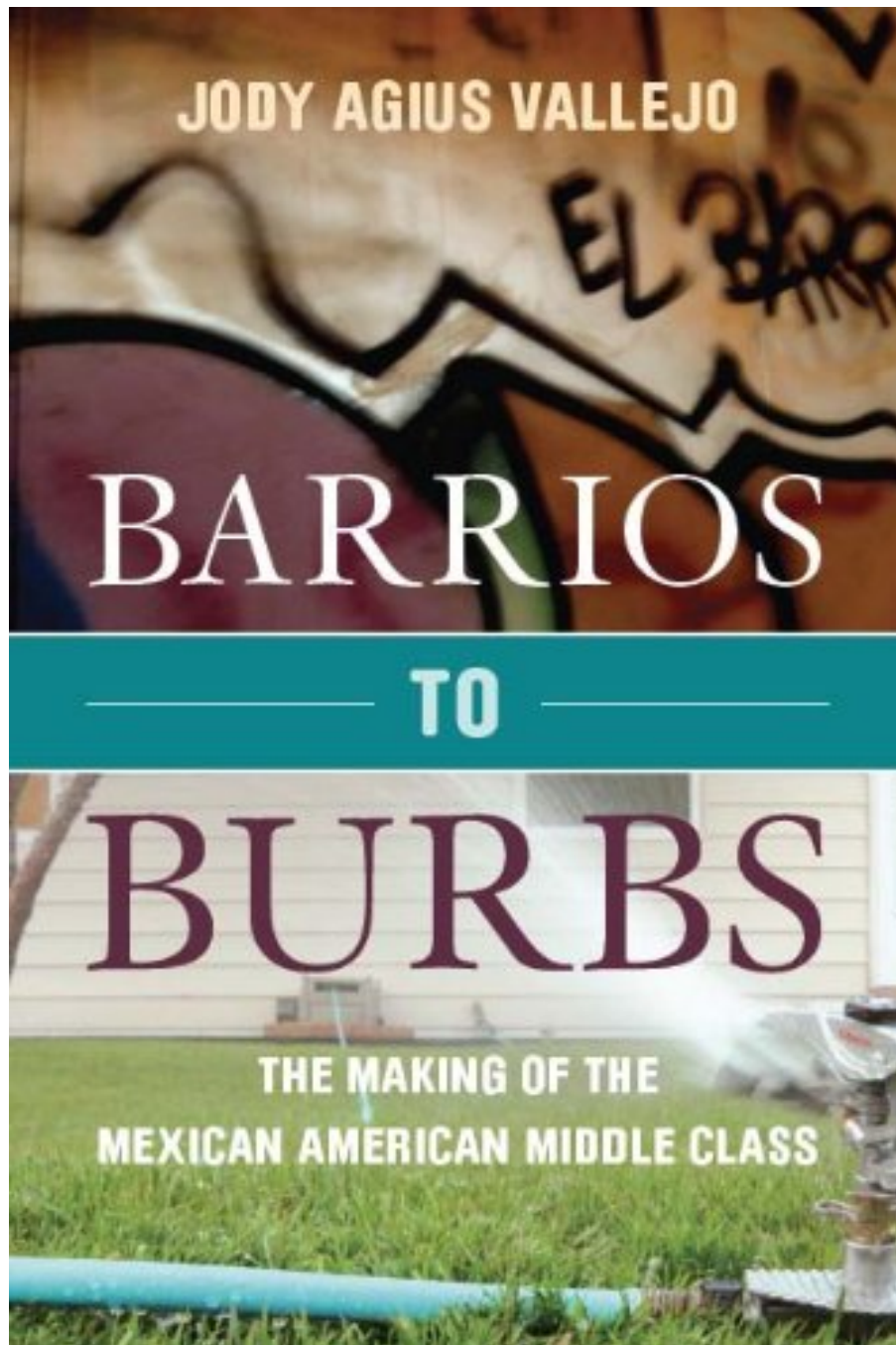


**BARRIOS TO BURBS: THE MAKING OF THE  
MEXICAN AMERICAN MIDDLE CLASS BY  
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## Review

"This book should be required reading for students and advanced sociologists alike. With a focus on shifting the conceptualization of a monolithic Mexican American experience, *Barrio to Burbs* also serves as a significant resource for students and scholars interested in Latino/a sociology, racial and ethnic studies, and social stratification. Though it isn't the only book addressing the experiences of a Mexican American middle class, it certainly is now a seminal read for all those who would like to complicate their understandings of Mexican Americans in the United States."— Daniel J. Delgado, *Social Forces*

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"*Barrios to Burbs* is the important and largely untold story of the Mexican American middle class. By taking us inside the lives of middle-class Mexican Americans, Vallejo demonstrates how the socioeconomic diversity among people of Mexican descent offers both promise and potential peril for the people she studies. This is a landmark book and a must read for anyone who hopes to understand America's largest ethnic group in all of its complexity."—Tomás R. Jiménez, *Stanford University*, author of *Replenished Ethnicity: Mexican Americans, Immigration, and Identity*

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Too frequently, the media and politicians cast Mexican immigrants as a threat to American society. Given America's increasing ethnic diversity and the large size of the Mexican-origin population, an investigation of how Mexican immigrants and their descendants achieve upward mobility and enter the middle class is long overdue. *Barrios to Burbs* offers a new understanding of the Mexican American experience.

Vallejo explores the challenges that accompany rapid social mobility and examines a new indicator of incorporation, a familial obligation to "give back" in social and financial support. She investigates the salience of middle-class Mexican Americans' ethnic identification and details how relationships with poorer coethnics and affluent whites evolve as immigrants and their descendants move into traditionally white middle-class occupations. Disputing the argument that Mexican communities lack high quality resources and social capital that can help Mexican Americans incorporate into the middle class, Vallejo also examines civic participation in ethnic professional associations embedded in ethnic communities.

- Sales Rank: #669583 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-08-15
- Released on: 2012-08-15
- Format: Kindle eBook

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#### About the Author

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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Great Read!

By Waltalk

Well written informative and accurate as advertised. Obviously significant research with the right mix of quantitative data as well as qualitative analysis. I'm not an academic, so wasn't looking for a text book. Found exactly what I was looking for in terms of relevant data.

If you are involved in the hispanic/latino marketplace, this is a must read for relevant current data and trends. I'll use it!

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent book! Successfully overturning xenophobic stereotypes while intelligently informing the reader

By raybeas

Dr. Agius Vallejo's book is a spectacular addition to academic inquiry and explores a topic long overlooked. "Barrios to Burbs: The Making of the Mexican American Middle Class" is about the pathways to middle class for Mexican Americans, and illuminates the nuances of an often prejudged minority. A book such as this (based upon statistical facts) is vital to society in bringing understanding to a misinformed citizenry, especially during a time when disinformation, intolerance, and animosity for people who are different runs rampant.

The author reveals her research methods with meticulous detail, then defines what it means to be part of the middle class, and provides a historic chronology of Mexicans and how our past as Americans is inextricably intertwined with this population. Through her research, Agius Vallejo cogently reveals there to be multiple pathways to the middle class (as opposed to previous theory which posits a more singular linear path). She also explores the internal and external hindrances to progress, which many Mexican Americans face in their quest for prosperity, such as familial obligations to help one another financially, and the social-political-institutional discriminations that come along with not being Caucasian in America. Highly recommended!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great source of information

By Alberto

It is a great book from the scientific point of view. Remarkable study on the predominant majority within the latino minority. Not easy to read for a person unfamiliar with sociology studies. I believe this study reflects more the interaction between Mexican Americans specifically in the context of Orange County than in Los Angeles County. Predominantly White communities in west Los Angeles are more tolerant in viewing middle class latinos. Their approach is not as prejudiced as the racist views that are described in the book of whites in Orange County. I will recommend this book to any person that is interested in interacting with the Mexican American community. Specially if that interaction is with the purpose of doing business with that segment of the population. I rated this book based on its practicality in the real world. I understand that this book is more a scientific report. Nevertheless, after such a great study, there are so few practical recommendations. The ones given are very general. It is a good step in the right direction to understand better the social mobility of such important community.

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