

BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Reading

Precarity and Belonging

Labor, Migration, and Noncitizenship

CATHERINE S. RAMÍREZ

EDITED BY CATHERINE S. RAMÍREZ, SYLVANNA M. FALCÓN, JUAN POBLETE,
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"This judiciously selected compilation shines by threading the critical link of insecurity through spaces of belonging, labor, and migration across time and contexts. Through the lens of precarity, the insightful, accessible, brilliant essays in this collection expose the complexity and fragility of life at the heart of our troubled times. It breaks new ground and will be read widely."

—Cecilia Menjivar, co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Migration Crises*

"*Precarity and Belonging* is a marvelous and timely collection. The essays brilliantly explore how the increasing precarization of life impacts the social and physical mobility of both citizens and noncitizens, blurring the boundaries between them and thus making possible a politics of commonality."

—Jonathan Xavier Inda, author of *Targeting Immigrants: Government, Technology, and Ethics*

Precarity and Belonging examines how the movement of people and their incorporation, marginalization, and exclusion, under epochal conditions of labor and social precarity affecting both citizens and noncitizens, have challenged older notions of citizenship and alienage. This collection brings mobility, precarity, and citizenship together in order to explore the points of contact and friction, and, thus, the spaces for a possible politics of commonality between citizens and noncitizens. The editors ask: What does modern citizenship mean in a world of citizens, denizens, and noncitizens, such as undocumented migrants, guest workers, permanent residents, refugees, detainees, and stateless people? How is the concept of citizenship, based on assumptions of deservingness, legality, and productivity, challenged when people of various and competing statuses and differential citizenship practices interact with each other, revealing their co-constitutive connections? How is citizenship valued or revalued when labor and social precarity impact those who seemingly have formal rights and those who seemingly or effectively do not? This book interrogates such binaries as citizen/noncitizen, insider/outsider, entitled/unentitled, "legal"/"illegal," and deserving/undeserving in order to explore the fluidity--that is, the dynamism and malleability--of the spectra of belonging.

CATHERINE S. RAMÍREZ is an associate professor of Latin American and Latino studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the author of *Assimilation: An Alternative History* and *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory*.

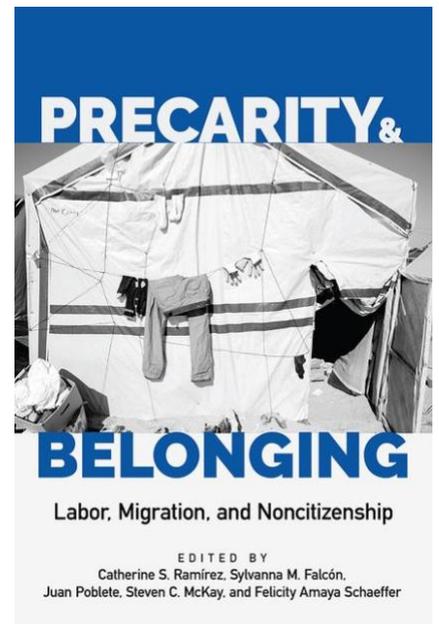
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