

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451621703321
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Titolo	Mexican New York [[electronic resource]] : transnational lives of new immigrants // Robert Courtney Smith
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2006
ISBN	0-520-93860-7 1-59875-804-7 1-282-76320-2 9786612763205 1-4237-3145-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (388 p.)
Disciplina	304.8/7471072/090511
Soggetti	Mexican Americans - New York (State) - New York - Social conditions Immigrants - New York (State) - New York - Social conditions Transnationalism Electronic books. United States Relations Mexico Mexico Relations United States New York (N.Y.) Emigration and immigration Puebla (Mexico : State) Emigration and immigration New York (N.Y.) Ethnic relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Transnational Life in Ethnographic Perspective -- 2. Dual Contexts for Transnational Life -- 3. "Los Ausentes Siempre Presentes" -- 4. The Defeat of Don Victorio -- 5. Gender Strategies, Settlement, and Transnational Life in the First Generation -- 6. "In Ticuani, He Goes Crazy" -- 7. "Padre Jesús, Protect Me" -- 8. "I'll Go Back Next Year" -- 9. Defending Your Name -- 10. Returning to a Changed Ticuani -- Conclusions and Recommendations -- Coda: The Mexican Educational Foundation of New York -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Methodological Appendix -- Index

Drawing on more than fifteen years of research, Mexican New York offers an intimate view of globalization as it is lived by Mexican immigrants and their children in New York and in Mexico. Robert Courtney Smith's groundbreaking study sheds new light on transnationalism, vividly illustrating how immigrants move back and forth between New York and their home village in Puebla with considerable ease, borrowing from and contributing to both communities as they forge new gender roles; new strategies of social mobility, race, and even adolescence; and new brands of politics and egalitarianism. Smith's deeply informed narrative describes how first-generation men who have lived in New York for decades become important political leaders in their home villages in Mexico. Smith explains how relations between immigrant men and women and their U.S.-born children are renegotiated in the context of migration to New York and temporary return visits to Mexico. He illustrates how U.S.-born youth keep their attachments to Mexico, and how changes in migration and assimilation have combined to transnationalize both U.S.-born adolescents and Mexican gangs between New York and Puebla. Mexican New York profoundly deepens our knowledge of immigration as a social process, convincingly showing how some immigrants live and function in two worlds at the same time and how transnationalization and assimilation are not opposing, but related, phenomena.
