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Border Ecologies

Aquí/Allá

Edited by Adriana Cuéllar

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- ***Border Ecologies: Aquí/Allá*** reframes geopolitical boundaries as living ecological systems, bringing together history, representation, and design to reveal how border landscapes sustain and depend on interdependence
- Grounded in the U.S.–Mexico border and structured through an Aquí/Allá relational format, the book extends border studies into broader global contexts, making it relevant to discussions of climate migration, watershed crisis, extractive economies, and contested divided territories
- Featuring contributions from internationally recognised scholars and practitioners—including Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman—alongside emerging voices, the volume creates a cross-disciplinary dialogue across architecture, landscape, urbanism, and environmental studies
- Visually rich and research-driven, the book speaks to both academic and professional audiences and is highly adoptable in graduate design studios and seminars in landscape architecture, urban design, geography, environmental humanities, and border studies

Water, species, waste, and human settlements move continuously across boundaries, producing ecologies born of contrast. As these flows persist, fragmentation emerges as the visible structure of interdependence. A defining manifestation of this condition unfolds along the United States–Mexico border. Here, the landscape is an archive of movement, adaptation, and negotiation shaped by survival, economic asymmetries, and political forces. Within this terrain, the Tijuana River Watershed sustains a complex estuarine system despite jurisdictional division and contamination, a unique natural threshold from which this book departs.

Border Ecologies: Aquí/Allá explores landscapes of division—both physical and conceptual—as sites of negotiation and transformation. Grounded in the U.S.–Mexico border and extended through parallel investigations across other divided landscapes, the book advances landscape as method, reading watersheds, estuaries, quarries, districts, and migratory territories as living systems shaped by extraction, cultivation, and repair. Through essays, drawings, and experimental modes of representation, twelve scholars and practitioners in landscape architecture, urbanism, history, and environmental studies—working across contested geographies—propose new ways of seeing, drawing, and inhabiting shared boundaries. Border Ecologies positions the border as a living ecology, where interdependence is sustained by contrast and exchange.

Adriana Cuéllar is Associate Professor at the University of San Diego, founder of the Border Design Lab, and co-partner of CRO studio. Her work examines architecture and representation as critical tools for re-imagining socially and environmentally engaged design practice at the US–Mexico border.

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