

SIN PADRES, NI PAPELES:

UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT YOUTH COMING OF AGE IN THE UNITED STATES

Each year, thousands of youth endure harrowing unaccompanied and undocumented migrations across Central America and Mexico to the United States in pursuit of a better future. Drawing on the firsthand narratives of migrant youth in Los Angeles, California, Stephanie L. Canizales shows that while a lucky few do find reprieve, many are met by resource-impooverished relatives who are unable to support them, exploitative jobs that are no match for the high cost of living, and individualistic social norms that render them independent and alone. *Sin Padres, Ni Papeles* illuminates how unaccompanied teens who grow up as undocumented low-wage workers navigate unthinkable material and emotional hardship, find the agency and hope that is required to survive, and discover what it means to be successful during the transition to adulthood in the United States.



"Sin Padres, Ni Papeles illuminates the challenges and adaptations these young people face, offering a compelling call to reexamine our policies and attitudes toward these most vulnerable members of our society. A must-read!"

—Carola Suárez-Orozco, Harvard Graduate School of Education

"The empathy the author has for these young people is palpable, avoiding the sometimes sterile gaze that much of the research on immigrant integration can adopt."

—Shannon Gleeson, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations

"Canizales develops a deeply engaging portrait of her participants to provide a sobering account of the lives of unaccompanied Central American minors who are aging into adulthood without the support of parent-led households or K-12 schools."

—Laura E. Enriquez, author of *Of "Love and Papers: How Immigration Policy Affects Romance and Family"*

"Written with passion and precision, this pathbreaking book is a must-read for students and scholars, as well as policymakers and legislators."

—Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, coauthor of *"South Central Dreams: Finding Home and Community in South L.A."*



Stephanie L. Canizales, PhD, is a researcher, author, and professor at the University of California at Merced, specializing in international migration, immigrant integration, and issues impacting children, youth, and families. Raised in Los Angeles by Salvadoran immigrants, her experiences as an unaccompanied youth in the city motivate her public scholarship. Stephanie previously held positions at Texas A&M University and earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of Southern California.

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