

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/behind-crimmigration/>

This video is an introduction to a book that explores the intersection of immigration enforcement and local law enforcement in North Carolina, drawing on the author's personal experiences and academic research.

The author, coming from a mixed-status family with undocumented members, was motivated to study the criminalization of immigrants and the fear of deportation through conversations with family and community organizers during graduate school. The research focuses on the collaboration between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement, particularly sheriff's offices, and examines how immigration policies are enacted at the local level.

Methodologically, the author employed various techniques, including community observations, participant observations, public records requests, and analysis of city council and county commissioner agendas. The book argues that immigration enforcement should be viewed as a local issue rather than solely a federal one, emphasizing that local government entities play a significant role in these dynamics.

The author traces the historical context of increased Latinx immigration to North Carolina in the 1990s and highlights the overtly racist origins of local enforcement efforts against immigrant communities. This video discusses the normalization of these enforcement measures post-2009 and the realization among community leaders that such programs are still active, often with a lack of awareness from the broader public.

Furthermore, it emphasizes moments of resistance from communities, particularly during the 2018 electoral cycle, where Latinx organizers campaigned against punitive sheriffs. This video concludes that accountability at the local level is crucial, stressing the need for transparency and better conditions for those impacted by immigration enforcement practices.

Overall, the book aims to reframe the discussion around immigration as a community issue, advocating for local accountability and resistance against oppressive policies.