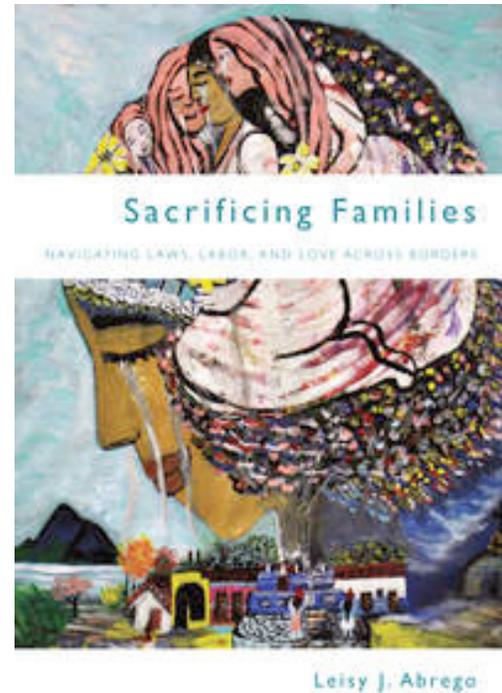


Sacrificing Families

*Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love
Across Borders*

By Leisy J. Abrego



Widening global inequalities make it difficult for parents in developing nations to provide for their children, and both mothers and fathers often find that migration in search of higher wages is their only hope. Their dreams are straightforward: with more money, they can improve their children's lives. But the reality of their experiences is often harsh, and structural barriers—particularly those rooted in immigration policies and gender inequities—prevent many from reaching their economic goals.

S*acrificing Families* offers a first-hand look at Salvadoran transnational families, how the parents fare in the United States, and the experiences of the children back home. It captures the tragedy of these

families' daily living arrangements, but also delves deeper to expose the structural context that creates and sustains patterns of inequality in their well-being. What prevents these parents from migrating with their children? What are these families' experiences with long-term separation? And why do some ultimately fare better than others?

As free trade agreements expand and nation-states open doors widely for products and profits while closing them tightly for refugees and migrants, these transnational families are not only becoming more common, but they are living through lengthier separations. Leisy Abrego gives voice to these immigrants and their families and documents the inequalities across their experiences.

"In this insightful and compassionate book, Leisy Abrego sheds light on the devastating and far-reaching effects of the contemporary immigration regime on immigrant families and their relatives back home. The voices of these immigrant families vividly combine with Abrego's sophisticated analysis to make us rethink what it means to live in transnational spaces today. A must read for anyone interested in families and immigration policy."

—Cecilia Menjívar,
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Leisy Abrego is Assistant Professor of Chicana/o Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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"Leisy Abrego provides an eloquent, empathic view of the agonizing choices made by transnational parents and the consequences for their children. The poignant quotes—from parents and children alike—along Abrego's thoughtful analysis make this an essential read."

—Carola Suárez-Orozco,
University of California,
Los Angeles

"Leisy Abrego renders in heart-wrenching detail what it means to live as a family separated by thousands of miles. *Sacrificing Families* is a must read on why families choose to become transnational, how they struggle to overcome distance and time, and the United States immigration policies that force this cultural and emotional divide."

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