



### **ABS Book Award Winner 2008**

Joan Anderson and James Gerber, *Fifty Years of Change on the U.S.-Mexico Border: Growth, Development, and Quality of Life*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007.

*ABS Book Awards committee's comment:*

“Not since Niles Hansen published his landmark book *The Border Economy* in 1981 has such a fine study of economic and social development on the U.S.-Mexico Border become available. This concise yet comprehensive case study of the Mexico/U.S. Border region provides a clear overview of the leading issues along and across a border defined by “one of the largest cross-border income gaps in the world.” Anderson and Gerber are masters of an array of descriptive, normative, and analytical literature which they have prodigiously mined in a cross-disciplinary manner to understand the border region’s evolution since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Their Border Human Development Index is an original analytical tool that is sure to have enduring value for scholarship on the U.S.-Mexico border. The authors’ deft integration of statistical analysis with qualitative assessment of border trends is a boon to those scholars and practitioners tasked with educating a new generation of students to the dynamic realities of development and policy in the border area. As border economist David Molina aptly put it, this book “will make a great textbook for anyone teaching a class on U.S.-Mexico border issues.” We agree.”

Joan Anderson received a PhD in economics from the University of California, San Diego. Her research areas of specialization are economic development of Latin America and applied econometrics. Her publications include a large number of journal articles and three books. Dr. Anderson co-edited the *Journal of Borderlands Studies* from 1995 to 2000. A Fulbright scholar, a Ford and Tinker foundations grant winner, she has served as the president of both the Business Association of Latin American Studies (BALAS) and the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS).

Dr. James Gerber is Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University. His most recent publications include *International Economics*, 4e (2007), and the co-edited volume *Agriculture and Rural Connections in the Pacific, 1500-1900* (with Lei Guang, 2006).



### **ABS Runner Up Award 2008**

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, ed. *Borderlands: Comparing Border Security in North America and Europe*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2007

*ABS Book Awards committee's comment:*

“University of Victoria professor Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly has put together a splendid and much needed collection of essays dealing with border security in North America and Europe. This well organized volume is premised on the contention that “the study of borders and borderlands requires more than partial explanations currently available to explain the relative porosity of borders.” Its strength lies in the diversity of studies ranging from ethnographic analysis of the trade in recycled clothing between Mexico and the United States, to migratory controls along Europe’s maritime borders, to examinations of post-9/11 antiterrorist policy and the U.S.-Visit program. Its contributors provide ample evidence that a top-down approach to border security is fundamentally flawed and bound to be ineffective in advancing the complex agenda of securitization, even in a post 9/11 world. Brunet-Jailly’s proposed model of borderlands security is highly instructive even if it is incomplete and is sure to stimulate comparative thinking in this policy domain. In sum, this is an excellent place to start for an overview and analysis of the many contemporary issues surrounding the problem of border security.”

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, is an Associate Professor, co-director of the Local Government Institute, and Director of the European Studies minor at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. His key research areas are comparative urban governance, and the governance of cross-border regions, with a specific focus on comparative decentralization, horizontal and vertical governance, and the theorization of cross-border regions. His research work has appeared or is forthcoming in six books, and over 35 articles and book chapters.



### ABS Nominee Award 2008

John J. Bukowczyk, Nora Faires, David R. Smith and Randy William Widdis.  
*Permeable Borders: The Great Lakes Basin and Transnational Region, 1650-1990.*  
Calgary and Pittsburg: University of Calgary Press in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Press. 2005.

*ABS Book Awards committee's comment:*

“The authors of this ambitious study examine the development of the Great Lakes region as a transnational space, framing and analyzing the broad geopolitical and economic forces shaping and reshaping the dynamics of economic and political integration across the Canada-U.S. border. The authors succeed in making the study more than just a broad-brush history of Great Lakes regionalism, drawing much needed attention to the socio-political reciprocals of commerce, migration, and cultural identity and effectively arguing that this borderlands region in itself functions as a critical independent variable in U.S.-Canadian relations and the grander project of North American continental integration. This fascinating work will be profitably read by borderlands scholars, students of U.S.-Canadian relations, and those who would gain a broader and more comparative understanding of the dynamics of integration processes in North America.”

John J. Bukowczyk is professor of history and director of the Canadian Studies Program at Wayne State University in Detroit. Professor Bukowczyk is a specialist in American immigration and ethnic history and urban history. His work focuses on the construction, maintenance, and transformation of personal, civic, and ethnic identities; urban and regional economic development; urban ethnic, race, and class relations; and the relationship between group rights and social justice.

Nora Faires is professor of history and women's studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Professor Faires is a social and cultural historian of migration, studying the intersections of ethnicity, race, gender, class, and religion in the United States and Canada. David R. Smith is a history instructor and academic advisor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Randy William Widdis is professor of geography at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan. Professor Widdis is a specialist in historical-cultural geography. His work focuses on the evolution of the Canadian-American borderlands and cross-border migration.



*2008 Award Committee Members:*

*Professor Juliet Fall, University of Geneva, Switzerland, ABS Book Award Chair 2008  
Professor and ABS Past President Stephen Mumme, Colorado State University,  
Professor and ABS Past President Anthony Popp, New Mexico State University,  
Professor and ABS Past President Edward William, University of Arizona,*

*The ABS book award consists of a plaque, a certificate and a year's free membership in ABS. Also, the winner of the 2008 book award will chair the ABS book award 2009.*

[absexec@uvic.ca](mailto:absexec@uvic.ca)

Executive secretary of the Association of Borderland Studies  
University of Victoria,  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada