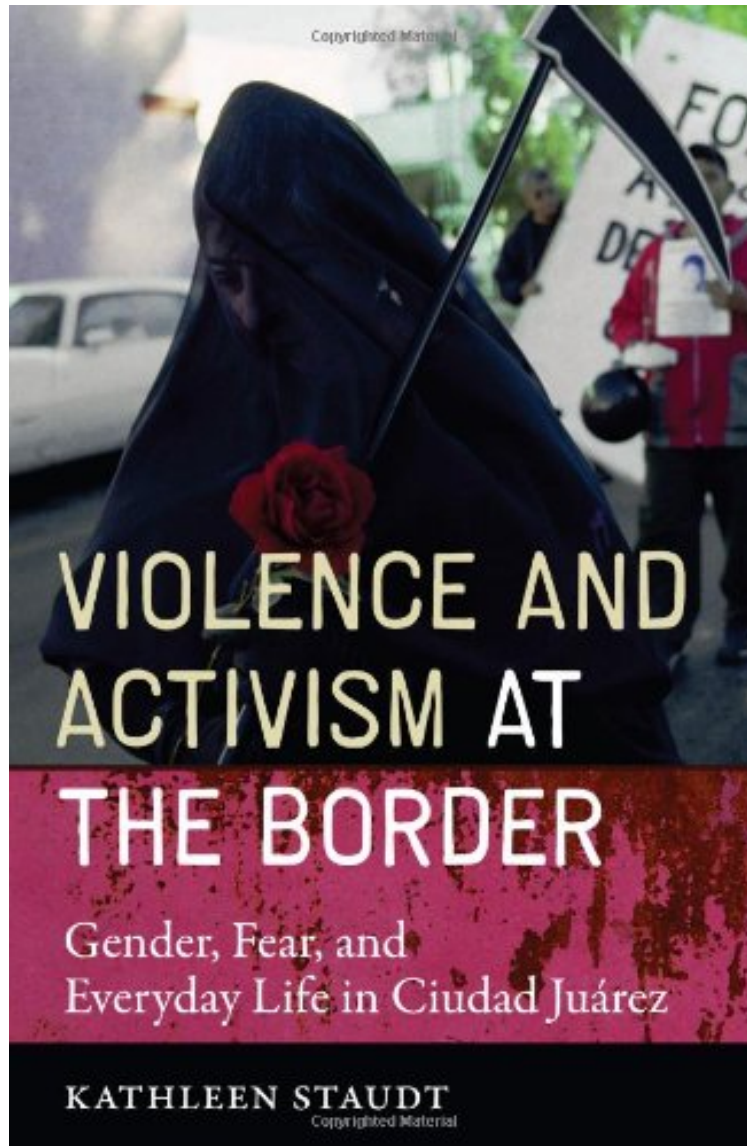


(Download) Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear, and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juarez (Inter-America)

## Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear, and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juarez (Inter-America)

*Kathleen Staudt*

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**Kathleen Staudt : Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear, and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juarez (Inter-America)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear, and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juarez (Inter-America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Javier M Delgado good price, fast delivery2 of 6 people found the following review helpful. InspiredBy Ernesto AguilarFor the author, gender is an importunate motif underscoring many relationships in this society and without. Staudt heads up a far more adventurous path. Rather than falling into clichés that would otherwise relegate it to blogosphere protoanalysis, Staudt talks about femicide in Juarez as a tragedy in which governmental failure and civilian complicity on many levels have linked with profit to a conspiracy of silence unlike anything else in Mexico. Such fears have been expressed before, but rarely so passionately as they are in *Activism*. Notions of female subservience captured in images like La Malinche, valid though quaint, are not clearly contextualized in either work, brave attempts notwithstanding. There is no denying there may be particularly sexist qualities in Mexican or Latin American culture. But while economic globalization is seen as a major source of Ciudad Juarez's miseries, global systems of patriarchy are largely spared the same rebuke. As another University of Texas Press release, *Drugs, Thugs, and Divas: Telenovelas and Narco-Dramas in Latin America* by O. Hugo Benavides, acknowledges, popular culture plays on racialized notions of Mexican/Latin American men (and, by extension, Black men and men of color generally) as distinctly macho, brash and disrespectful of women in ways white men are not. This sort of positioning often occurs absent of history. While Frantz Fanon astutely pointed out postcolonial societies without a strong understanding of race and class are doomed to repeat the mistakes of their colonial overseers, putting the proper context to thoughts that postcolonial societies are somehow more primitive in their approach to issues like gender misses the point of understanding dependency theory and cultural imperialism. Whiteness pervades Mexican culture as much as in any other postcolonial country, and its impact on race, class and gender is more forcefully thrashed out elsewhere.

Between 1993 and 2003, more than 370 girls and women were murdered and their often-mutilated bodies dumped outside Ciudad Jurez in Chihuahua, Mexico. The murders have continued at a rate of approximately thirty per year, yet law enforcement officials have made no breakthroughs in finding the perpetrator(s). Drawing on in-depth surveys, workshops, and interviews of Jurez women and border activists, *Violence and Activism at the Border* provides crucial links between these disturbing crimes and a broader history of violence against women in Mexico. In addition, the ways in which local feminist activists used the Jurez murders to create international publicity and expose police impunity provides a unique case study of social movements in the borderlands, especially as statistics reveal that the rates of femicide in Jurez are actually similar to other regions of Mexico. Also examining how non-governmental organizations have responded in the face of Mexican law enforcement's "normalization" of domestic violence, Staudt's study is a landmark development in the realm of global human rights.

"In this sensitive book about border violence, Staudt provides illuminating answers to perplexing questions long asked by people around the world about recent grotesque crimes against women in the notorious city of Ciudad Jurez. Staudt skillfully examines the femicide phenomenon and proceeds to investigate everyday domestic violence, grounding her findings in direct fieldwork and wide-ranging multi-disciplinary and theoretical research. Spotlighting the frustrated efforts of public and private institutions to address the problem, Staudt eloquently points out the urgent need for greater gender justice on the border." (Oscar J. Martinez, Regents' Professor of History, University of Arizona)"In her splendid book, Kathleen Staudt shows why paying close and nuanced attention to violence and organizing against it reveals so much about both gritty urban politics and sprawling globalization. This book deserves a wide readership across disciplinary borders." (Cynthia Enloe, author of *Globalization and Militarism: Feminists Make the Link*)"This accessible book exposes the complexity of the murder of women in Ciudad Jurez. Avoiding easy explanations, Staudt presents a nuanced analysis of the different factors that contributed to such a level of violence against women. Her perceptive analysis illuminates how political drama is central to understanding both, how the Mexican institutions have reacted to the murders, and how activists mobilized to obtain an institutional response to stop violence against women." (Pablo Vila, Professor of Sociology and Director of Graduate Studies, Temple University)"In this sensitive book about border violence, Staudt provides illuminating answers to perplexing questions long asked by people around the world about recent grotesque crimes against women in the notorious city of Ciudad Jurez. Staudt skillfully examines the femicide phenomenon and proceeds to investigate everyday domestic violence, grounding her findings in direct fieldwork and wide-ranging multi-disciplinary and theoretical research. Spotlighting the frustrated efforts of public and private institutions to address the problem, Staudt eloquently points out the urgent need for greater gender justice on the border." (Oscar J. Martinez, Regents' Professor of History, University of Arizona)"In her splendid book, Kathleen Staudt shows why paying close and nuanced attention to violence and organizing against it reveals so much about both gritty urban politics and sprawling globalization. This book deserves a wide readership across disciplinary borders." (Cynthia Enloe, author of *Globalization and Militarism: Feminists Make the Link*)"This accessible book exposes the complexity of the murder of women in Ciudad Jurez. Avoiding easy explanations, Staudt presents a nuanced analysis of the different factors that contributed to such a level of violence against women. Her perceptive analysis illuminates how political drama is central to understanding both, how the Mexican institutions have reacted to the murders, and how activists mobilized to obtain an institutional response to stop violence against women." (Pablo

Vila, Professor of Sociology and Director of Graduate Studies, Temple University)About the AuthorKATHLEEN STAUDT is an award-winning Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at the University of Texas at El Paso. She has written or co-authored more than a dozen scholarly books on women's studies, borderlands, and political science, most recently *Pledging Allegiance: Learning Nationalism at the El Paso-Jurez Border*, with Susan Rippberger, and *Fronteras No Ms: Toward Social Justice at the U.S.-Mexico Border*, with Irasema Coronado.