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Dr. Monica Perales publishes new book uncovering a hidden Borderlands story

Dr. Monica Perales, assistant professor of history, has just published *Smelertown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community*, with the University of North Carolina Press.

Smelertown uncovers the forgotten history of a once-vibrant Mexican American working class community located in El Paso, Texas. Formed at the base of the copper smelter operated by the American Smelting and Refining Company, Smelertown – *La Esmelda*, as residents called it – was home to generations of Mexican workers and their families. Covering the community's nearly century-long history, her book traces the birth, growth, and ultimate demise of a working community, and in the process, places ethnic Mexicans and the U.S. Mexico border at the center of the rise of transnational capitalism and the making of the urban West.

Dr. Perales is also the co-editor of the forthcoming volume *Recovering the Hispanic History of Texas* (Arte Publico Press).

The History Department congratulates Dr. Perales on her latest accomplishment. For more information on SMELTERTOWN, visit [UNC Press](#) website.

