

# Political Ecologies of the U.S/Mexico Border

- *Racial Thinking: Humans and Nonhumans*, John Hartigan
- *Post-humanist Political Ecology of Boundary Enforcement in the United States-Mexico Borderlands*, Juanita Sundberg, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia.
- *Feminist Political Ecology and Women's Work along the U.S.-Mexican Border*, Maria Cruz-Torres, Associate Professor, School of Transborder Studies, Graduate Faculty, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University



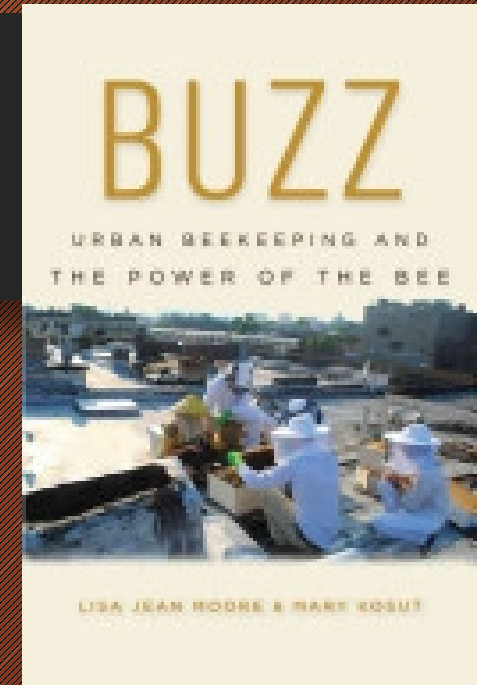
# Disciplinary Developments

- Political ecology: Eric R. Wolf, “Ownership and Political Ecology,” 1972. Fusion of forms attention simultaneously to environmental dynamics and social operations (economic, political, etc.).
- The Species Turn: Companion Species (Haraway, 2008), Multispecies Ethnography (Kirksey & Helmreich, *Cultural Anthropology*, 2010), Interspecies (Livingston and Puar, *Social Text*, 2011)
- “How humanity appears if we recognized our fundamental relationship with nature.” Linda Vallejo.



# Buzz: Urban Beekeeping and the Power of the Bee, Moore and Kosut, 2013

- “the culture of beekeeping” in New York.
  - “learning more about the bees themselves...” & question how exchanges between organisms are obscured by humanism; then how to depict/analyze multispecies relations.
  - “as the bee’s interlocutors we assiduously attempt to de-center ourselves.”
- = api-ethnography: “considers bees as cultured beings that traffic between the worlds of the hive and of the urban landscape.”





# Bees & Race



- “Within U.S. borders, certain bees are more welcomed than others.” European bees, Italy = “model minority”; Russian bees seen as diseased and defective. Versus “Africanized bees” entering the U.S. from Brazil through Central America.
- “Narratives of harm”; targeted for extermination as they migrate further north each year.
- “Africanized bees are insects caught within a complex political landscape.”



# “Becoming American is a dangerous proposition for both bees and humans.” 174

- Requires conforming to norms of sex/reproduction; “enter through sanctioned ways.”
- “Humans suffer at the these borders, particularly Mexicans who endure harsh environmental conditions and mistreatment and violence, but do bees suffer from the regulation of national borders and boundaries?”
- “many readers felt it was ‘offensive’ and ‘politically and professionally dangerous’ for us to compare the suffering of an ethnic group of people to a race of bees.”



# Razas de Abejas en México

- Las razas de *Apis mellifera* (se pueden dividir generalmente en tres grupos: 1. Razas Europeas, 2. Razas Orientales, 3. Razas Africanas:  
<http://unidadabejas.blogspot.com/2008/04/razas-de-abejas-melferas-en-mxico-y>
- Abejas nativas y culturas autóctonas, un vínculo ancestral (CONACYT); 2000 species, “diversas razas”  
<http://www.cyd.conacyt.gob.mx/247/Articulos/Abeja>

