

*Borderlanders/Fronterizos* is a new interdisciplinary journal published by TCU Press committed to the study of *la frontera* between the United States and Mexico. Edited by a cross-disciplinary team of scholars and journalists spanning the international divide, the journal aims to be a leading source for fact-based reporting, analysis, and commentary that demonstrates the border region's vibrancy, resilience, and dialogue. We welcome contributions from scholars, community leaders, journalists, organizers, and artists alike, situated in or afar from the border, and committed to affirming that borders are not merely lines of division but living places to understand, celebrate, and reimagine.

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***Inaugural Issue Call for Submissions: "Reimagining the US-Mexico Border"***

Imaginings of the border evoke a familiar narrative. From the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to the Bracero Program, from the 1930s repatriation campaigns to California's "Save Our State" initiative, and from the advance of Manifest Destiny to modern immigration crackdowns, social forces have shaped the border into categories of who belongs and who does not, who is entitled and who is not. Defined by racial or cultural stereotypes, these categories fuel simplistic binaries: "us" and "them," "Mexico" and "United States," the "third world" and the "first world." Such thinking casts the border as a place where the binaries mix. Within this logic, the border becomes a topsy-turvy world in need of order, justifying militarization and violence that sort out whose "right" from who's not. The consequences are real: hurtful public policies, aggressive law enforcement, and everyday acts of discrimination.

Yet *fronterizos* have destabilized the dominant narrative, turning the border into a place of creative resistance and political reimagining rooted in justice, dignity, and mutual recognition. From rebel Joaquín Murrieta to performing artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña, from *feminista* Gloria Anzaldúa to the Tohono O'odham Nation, activists, artists, and communities have pushed back against oppression with poetic alchemy found in food preparation, language, storytelling, and activism. These practices, traditions, and histories sustain the bonds between people, strengthening their attachment to place and turning the border into a symbol of belonging, well-being, and humanity.

*Borderlanders/Fronterizos* joins a long history of scholarship and cultural production dedicated to the border. In this spirit, the journal invites submissions for its inaugural issue, "Reimagining the US-Mexico Border." We welcome a range of submissions—articles, essays, short stories, poetry,

art, recipes, policy proposals, photography, and other forms that contribute to critical and creative engagement with the US–Mexico borderlands. Submissions in Spanish are accepted and encouraged. The journal aims at representing the borderlands, composed of people’s experiences, cultural expressions, and shared histories, that transcend the geopolitical boundary and limitations of a dominant narrative.

Please send submissions and address questions to [borderlanders@tcu.edu](mailto:borderlanders@tcu.edu).

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 11:59 PM PST, MARCH 16, 2026**

We welcome submissions in the following formats:

- Scholarly articles
- Essays and short commentaries
- Film, book, or music reviews
- Poetry, short stories, and recipes
- Visual art and photo essays
- Community and individual profiles

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- (Im)migration, social movements, and human rights
- Trade, commerce, and economic impact
- Energy, environmental issues, and policies
- Cultural exchange and identity formation
- Security, laws, and law enforcement
- Health and social services
- Historical perspectives
- Art, literature, music, and media
- Recipes and foodways
- Community narratives and personal stories

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All submissions must indicate that the manuscript contains original content, has not previously been published, and is not under review by another publication. Authors are responsible for securing permission to use copyrighted images, tables, lyrics, or materials from a copyrighted work. Authors must contact original authors or copyright holders to request the use of such materials in their articles. *Submissions are accepted in both English and Spanish.*

### TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:

#### Academic articles

- Length: 5,000–8,000 words, which include endnotes, bibliography, and tables
- Abstract: 100–300 words
- Format: Chicago Manual of Style
- Keywords: Should contain between 4 and 6 keywords that will help readers search for and discover your article
- Peer Review: All academic articles will undergo double-blind peer review, so please ensure self-identifiers are removed.

#### Essays and commentaries

- Length: 1,500–3,000 words
- Focus: Reflections, opinions, and critical commentaries that engage with border issues in ways that are informed, accessible, and thought-provoking
- Review: Editorial board review process

#### Reviews

- Length: No more than 1,500 words
- Format: Chicago Manual of Style
- Focus: Should include the following: main ideas and major objectives of the subject matter and how effectively these are accomplished; the soundness of methodologies and information sources used; the context or impetus of the materials—controversies, review research or policy; constructive comments about strengths and weaknesses.
- Review: Editorial review process

#### Creative works

- Format: Poetry, music, short stories, visual art, and photo essays
  - Poetry: 1 to 2 poems
  - Short stories: Up to 3,000 words
  - Visual Art/Photo Essays: Submit high-resolution images (300 dpi) along with a 300-word artist bio and statement.
- Review: Reviewed by the editorial team and external artists.

Community/Individual profiles

- Length: 800–2,000 words
- Focus: Personal stories, interviews, and oral histories that capture the lived experiences of those residing in, affected by, or working to create change in the US-Mexico borderlands.
- Review: Editorial review process.