

**Assimilation and Illusory membership: Chavez Chapter 10**

© Copyright Bruce Owen 2011

- Chavez: Shadowed Lives: Chapter 10, Incorporation, pp. 175-188
  - aspects of incorporation (Chavez calls them “facets” or “modes”)
    - economic
      - getting a decent, stable job
      - paying taxes
      - shopping in local stores, etc.
    - linguistic
      - Migrants learn English as a second language
      - their kids learn it as a first language, along with Spanish
    - social, cultural, personal
      - growing US networks of kin, friends, etc.
        - family reunification
      - especially kids raised in the US
        - US schools and television to acculturate them
        - establish networks that then bind the parents
          - are culturally more American, not Mexican, don’t want to return
          - don’t know Mexican culture well enough
          - have no friends in Mexico
          - if born in the US, are US citizens
      - participation in church, cultural events, etc.
  - but this incorporation is illusory without legal residence
    - can always be deported
    - can’t do many things: can’t take kids to Disneyland...
  - Government policies are contradictory
    - ICE (formerly INS) trying to deport undocumented migrants
    - hospitals providing medical care
    - public housing services
    - school for kids
    - school lunch programs for kids
    - because most do pay taxes
      - but they are not here legally, so does the state owe them services?
    - partly because of undocumented parents with US-born, citizen children
    - but if an undocumented kid takes two years of high school in California and graduates, they get legal residence in the state for some purposes, like college tuition
      - so the state subsidizes their education... but then makes it illegal for them to work here!
- Again... that’s it!