Overview: “Migrant Imaginaries traces the historical forms of migrant expression and cultural politics in the transnational labor circuit linking Mexico and the United States. My study highlights the complex and often conflicted relationships between Mexican migrants and Mexican Americans as they pursued civil rights and cultural autonomy in the United States, documenting the cultural and social practices that sustained labor and social movements over the twentieth century.” (4) Camacho argues that Mexican migrants created their own imagined community due to their displacement from Mexico as well as experience of subordination in the United States. She goes on to claim that the idea of nation in Mexico as well as in the United States is also a type of “imagined community” due to the existence of these Migrant communities that have transnational connections. In other words, Mexican migrant communities embody a system that defies conventions of national citizenship in both Mexico and the United States. (9)

Although Camacho does not state it explicitly, her work reflects Benedict Anderson’s idea of “imagined communities.” Camacho challenges the reader to question the notion of citizenship and nation-state by showing the reader how “transborder communities” of Mexican nationals, migrants, and Mexican Americans have exposed the limits of state formation. (4) Camacho uses primary sources, such as art, music, and narratives to show the reader the perspective of the migrant. Some of the issues with this book are that it is unclear that all the sections of her book tie into her central thesis. It seemed to me very sporadic and unclear.
Camacho’s use of different terms interchangeably is also very confusing. She does not make it clear who she is addressing and different times.

*How this work can be applied to American Studies:* I believe that this book can complement Benedict Anderson’s book, *Imagined Communities*, in American Studies 465. What this book does well is that it shows the reader the experiences of the Mexican migrant workers who, “are people from here and there, both at the same time.” (20) Camacho shows us how Mexican migrants imagined a community that transcends borders and regions. These migrants used these communal ties to fight for their rights.