

This year's winner of the Hubert Herring Award is Jason Pribilsky of Whitman College for his transnational ethnography entitled *La Chulla Vida: Gender, Migration, and the Family in Andean Ecuador* (Syracuse University Press, 2007).

Pribilsky's fieldwork in the Azuayo-Cañari region of southern Ecuador and in Queens, New York studies the migration phenomenon from several critical angles. For many young men, a lengthy stint in the United States has become a rite of passage and a symbol of progress and modernity. As Pribilsky writes, "As much as or more than base economic considerations....cultural struggles are responsible for propelling young Ecuadorians to the United States (273)." Paradoxically, the most eligible bachelors in the Azuayo-Cañari regions are the ones most likely to leave for the US.

The mostly male migrants to New York City end up living a more marginalized life than they had expected. They struggle to pay off the debt they incurred to get to the US in the first place; they need to make ends met in an expensive city; and they find that generating remittances requires a longer and more arduous stay than they had planned. Furthermore, many find themselves performing the housekeeping duties normally associated with women.

The women they left behind in Ecuador also take on new roles. They administer remittances, they work in the fields, and some learn to drive. They also struggle to maintain their transnational relationship with their husbands. Most of the men do eventually return to Ecuador, but a few have been HIV positive. For these transnational couples, male infidelity is expected and tolerated so long as they are providing for their families financially. Women are expected to remain faithful.

As Pribilsky writes, "young men and women in the Azuayo-Cañari region are in the process of generating new definitions of what it means to 'have gender' in ways unimaginable to previous generations (278)." This very solid, sweeping ethnography of transnational migration will appeal to specialists, and its clear prose and argument will make it an excellent text for course adoption in undergraduate classes.

Congratulations again to Jason Pribilsky.

Steve Lewis  
Chair, Hubert Herring Award