

Community Festivals as Racialized Spaces: Latinx Exclusion and Policing

There has been a growing interest in exploring the experiences of Latinx populations in new immigrant destinations across the United States. Research on historically white (non-Latinx) new immigrant destinations report that white residents' reactions to a growing Latinx population vary, ranging from passive acceptance of "newcomers" to overt resistance to change. Yet, we know less about how these dynamics play out in shared neighborhood spaces. Drawing on three years of participant observations, interviews with residents, and analyses of public documents, I examine Latinx racialized experiences at three festivals in Augusta, a historically white suburban neighborhood located in the U.S. Midwest. My findings reveal that Latinx festival attendees report experiencing social exclusion and policing. This suggests that shared public spaces in diverse settlements are racialized spaces and come to reflect broader ethno-racial hierarchies.