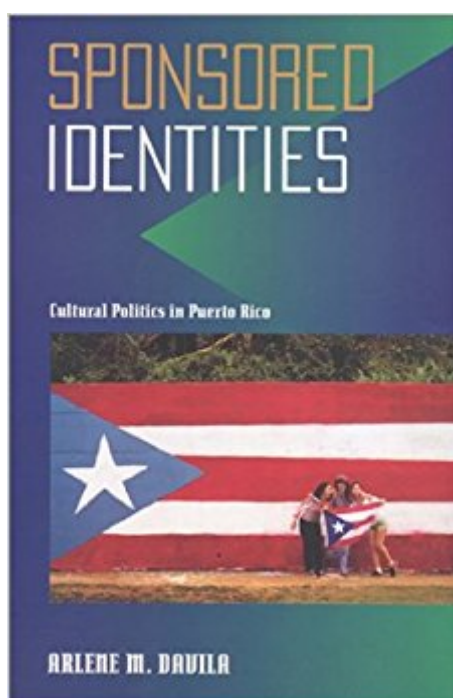


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Sponsored Identities: Cultural Politics In Puerto Rico (Puerto Rican Studies)



Synopsis

Focusing on the Institute for Puerto Rican Culture - the government institution charged with defining authenticated views of national identity since the 1950s - and on popular festival organizers, author Arlene M. Davila illuminates contestations over appropriate representations of culture in the increasingly mass-mediated context of contemporary Puerto Rico. She examines the creation of an essentialist view of nationhood based on a peasant culture and a "unifying" Hispanic heritage and explores the ways in which grassroots organizations challenge and reconfigure definitions of national identity, through their own activities and representations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

How views of national identity are forged and contested in Puerto Rico by local and transnational forces --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Arlene Davila is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University. She has previous work experience with museums and cultural institutions.

Excellent book on our ethnocentricity.

I got what i asked for, and what was described on the quality of the book. Thank you. It was also

received in a timely manner.

After reading this book I can say that Davila offers a good case study of the Puerto Rican Institute of Culture has historically acted as an authority which sanctions specific cultural products/practices as Puerto Rican. Her description of the struggle over authenticity at the Bacardi Festival is excellent. However, her analysis of how identity/ies are negotiated and framed suffers for lack of theoretical rigour. Her understanding of nationalism and her notion of nationalism as somehow inclusive is a case in point. This book also betrays a lack of historical knowledge about Puerto Rican political history as a number of errors concerning political party history appear in the text. The main value of this book is as an empirical case study on which others can build a serious analysis of how culture and identity are contested in Puerto Rico.

very interesting

This is a very acute study of cultural politics in Puerto Rico. The author exposes the dynamics that make culture such an important forum to debate identity among Puerto Ricans on the island and abroad. It is an excellent book and a must read for anyone interested in contemporary Puerto Rican studies.

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