

**Immigrant Entrepreneurship in a US Southwestern Suburban Metropolis: Contexts,
Niches, and Community Building**

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Abstract

This paper explores immigrant entrepreneurship in Dallas, Texas, a southwestern suburban metropolis in the United States. Through an analysis of interview data and narratives of entrepreneurship, we demonstrate the diverse paths to immigrant self-employment across a range of immigrant populations. We address a host of questions that emerge from the literature on immigrant self-employment: the importance of contexts of exit and contexts of reception, the ethnic dominance of specific entrepreneurial niches, the role of ethnic and class resources, including the “ethnic” market, and the significance of entrepreneurship to community building and claims-making in urban and suburban spaces.