

“Race and Immigration Enforcement”

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ABSTRACT: Drawing on interviews with immigrants and immigrant justice organizers and lawyers in the Southern California area, this paper explores how immigration law and its enforcement affect individual immigrants’ articulation of their racial identity as well as their perceptions of the operation of racial hierarchy in the communities where they live and work. The paper also analyzes judicial decisions that consider challenges to immigration enforcement practices to expose the significant mismatch between the understandings of race that infuse immigrants’ everyday lives and the doctrines and analysis that courts employ in evaluating the role of race in immigration enforcement practices.