The border between Mexico and the United States has long been characterized by contestation and violent conflict as well as economic collaboration. The post-1848 frontier stretches over three thousand kilometres of semi-arid and desert terrain from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico; it is the most crossed border in the world. This transcontinental division is an area of commonality and shared economic dependencies, despite income differentials and cultural differences. Professor Heyman is an engaged anthropologist with over thirty years’ experience of residing in this milieu and conducting research on migration, mobility, and state control on the US-Mexico border. His longstanding work on migration issues has led him to to take an active role in public policy, focusing on alternative migration and border policies for the United States.