María T. Padilla & Nancy Rosado, *Tossed to the Wind: Stories of Hurricane Maria Survivors*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2020. ix + 195 pp. (Cloth US\$ 24.95)

Tossed to the Wind is a welcome contribution to the historical record of Puerto Rican migration posthurricane Maria. Centering the narratives of displaced Puerto Ricans and those in the Florida diaspora, Maria Padilla and Nancy Rosado demonstrate that leaving was never a choice, but rather a phenomenon rooted in the structural violence and inequalities of colonialism. The landfall of Maria in September 2017 devastated Puerto Rico and ushered in unprecedented media attention. As hurricane recovery quickly became a source of political debate, local and federal agencies such as FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) were mired in controversy for their inept recovery measures, including undelivered pallets of water, a lack of bilingual recovery workers, and high rates of unfunded and underfunded Individual and Household Assistance applications. Faced with no electricity or access to clean water, food insecurity, a failing healthcare infrastructure, and continued prioritizing of debt repayment over recovery, it is unsurprising that an estimated 135,000 Puerto Ricans were displaced to the United States.

The book's opening chapter ties the devastation wrought by hurricane Maria to "American law" (p. 17), Puerto Rico's decade-long economic recession, growing debt, and economic austerity. Padilla and Rosado discuss the Insular Cases (a series of Supreme Court decisions) to historically ground Puerto Rico's structural vulnerability. Particularly significant were *Downes v. Bidwell*, which defined Puerto Rico as foreign in a domestic sense leaving Congress with sole power, and *Balzac v. Porto Rico*, which acknowledged full citizenship rights for Puerto Ricans who moved stateside. The Insular Cases created the conditions that allowed Congress to impose the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (2016 PROMESA Bill), which established an unelected Fiscal Control Board (colloquially referred to as "la Junta") to manage local finances and negotiate Puerto Rico's public debt of US\$73 billion. The board has focused solely on debt repayment and generating profit for investors, exacerbating the economic recession and ushering in deep austerity. These measures further weakened Puerto Rico's public infrastructure, which in the aftermath of Maria would lead to the deaths and displacement of thousands of Puerto Ricans. Padilla and Rosado refer to this outmigration as a "concentrated, once-in-a-lifetime event of historical proportions" (p. 34). However, it is important to consider contemporary outmigration within a broader history of U.S. colonialism and migration policy.

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Padilla and Rosado do not neglect to discuss the challenges people faced as they journeyed to central Florida. The heart of the book consists of four chapters comprising fifteen interview transcripts uninterrupted by the authors—each one documenting the difficulty of making a new life in Orlando. Displaced people were drowned in bureaucracy that denied them health services, food security, and employment while simultaneously dealing with resentment, depression, suicidal ideation, and trauma. Many painstakingly recounted the hostile housing market, which drew from racial tropes of criminality and laziness to deny their housing applications. Furthermore, over the previous ten years the Florida Legislature siphoned funds from the affordable housing program to fill budget gaps, hobbling the program. Many displaced families had little recourse other than seeking temporary housing in hotels and motels under FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program (TSA). The TSA program proved to be another failed attempt at recovery. FEMA began offering one-way tickets back to Puerto Rico and after ten months ended the TSA program without providing alternative housing. The interviews reveal not just bureaucratic challenges but also the emotional toll of leaving. When recounting the moment when leaving became a reality, people described a sense of guilt, as if the catastrophic wind forces, collapsing infrastructure, and social abandonment were not reason enough. Simultaneously the book communicates an awareness and pushing back against popular perceptions (both media and familial) that employ victimizing tropes of Puerto Ricans as parasitic and their exodus as a burden on the state. As interviewee David Olmeda said, "we are not ... sitting around and fanning ourselves. I am working and hustling for what's mine" (p. 51).

Tossed to the Wind sheds light on the conditions that shaped outmigration. The text does not engage in theoretical debates, but by focusing on the interviews it puts Black feminist praxis into practice, demonstrating that embodiment is a legitimate form of knowing. The book is an invitation to understand how the persistence of the U.S. empire shapes life in Puerto Rico and how the resulting racialized inequalities influence outmigration and the ability of people to "recover." It illuminates the important role that these long histories play in the way Puerto Ricans are assimilated into U.S. society through their second-class citizenship. Ultimately, with ongoing economic austerity and in the aftermath of hurricanes and earthquakes, for many migration remains a key survival strategy.

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