Review of: ***Barrio Libre: Criminalizing States and Delinquent Refusals of the New Frontier*** by Gilberto Rosas. Durham, NC, Duke UP, 2012. p. xi, 200. Notes. Bibliography. Index. $23.95 paper.

In ***Barrio Libre*** Gilberto Rosas provides a context with which the reader can understand the delinquent youth that prey upon immigrants trying to evade border patrol while entering the United States. Rosas gives the historical and political factors that led to the rise of the youth that call themselves the 'Free Hood' (8). Rosas claims that these delinquents exist as a result of the incomplete sovereignty that is exercised by nations during an age of neoliberal globalization (7). The author does not ask the reader to ignore the wrongdoings of these youth, but recognizes that their actions do not exist in a vacuum.

The book begins by explaining the development of what Rosas calls the "New Frontier" (30). Although current U.S. relations with Mexico suggest that the border has always been heavily protected, the emphasis on protecting the border is a new development that has colonial ties. Earlier, the need to manage the migration of people was connected to "colonial nightmares about the savage natives" (32) and developed into an exercise of state sovereignty in which "certain bodies are imagined as contaminating, ultimately killable and nightmares" (45). Although controlling the border grew over time to become an important exercise and sign of state sovereignty, it was necessarily frustrated by the needs of a modern global market. Agreements like NAFTA necessitate the movement of people across borders, but in its intentions it clashes with border control as an exercise of sovereignty. Interestingly, Rosas does not see the United States as the sole cause of the problem, or suggest that the ultimate solution is to open up borders. While the demonization of immigrants in the U.S. creates problems, Rosas also points out that Mexico is also involved in a type of "domination and rule inextricably linked to a calculus of subjugated lives situated in greater proximity to death…" (56).

Rosas supports a "freedom not to migrate" (p. 56), which suggests that people should be able to comfortably live in their home rather than be pushed to immigrate in order to live comfortably. Simply opening the borders would not solve the political and economic issues that force many to migrate to United States in search of a better life. Rosas also explains the important differences that separate the delinquent youth from the migrants that they prey upon. These differences allow the reader to comprehend how the youth of Barrio Libre justify preying upon the poor migrants that cross their paths. Finally, Rosas explains that being a part of Barrio Libre is an attempt of youth to find freedom in the midst of circumstances that leave them with few choices. Barrio Libre is a "delinquent refusal of young men and women who face imminent death as nightmarish human waste at the new frontier" (130).

The strength of Rosas' work lies in the personal accounts of members of Barrio Libre that he provides. The specific stories allow the reader to connect with the youth and understand their almost inevitable choice to enter a life of crime. Furthermore, the history of the U.S.-Mexico border that ***Barrio Libre*** provides is especially interesting given current proposals to increase protection of the border. Unfortunately, however, Rosas interesting work is overshadowed by the weaknesses in his writing. His argument is interesting, but the way he communicated it creates a barrier for others uninformed about this particular practice. For example, the use of undefined terminology alienates readers and makes certain parts of the book almost incomprehensible. Furthermore, the use of run on sentences necessitated multiple readings in order to grasp somewhat simple concepts. The academic style of writing used by Rosas is the exact issue that prevents everyday citizens from engaging in a discussion that could ultimately benefit them. Rosas' arguments would be eye-opening to many, unfortunately the way that he writes ensures

that he will only connect with other academics, therefore limiting his audience. Rosas is not unique in his shortcomings, this issue is often apparent in the writing of many academics. However, if Rosas has any hope of reaching outside of the world of fellow academics and affecting the world , then this issue will need to be addressed.

Toni Otokunrin, Vanderbilt University Law School