

University of New Mexico

UNM Digital Repository

Shared Knowledge Conference

Nov 8th, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

"Space, Place and Cultural Visibility: Barrioization and Barriology in Mario Suárez's Short Stories"

Jorge Hernández

University of New Mexico

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/skc>

Hernández, Jorge. "Space, Place and Cultural Visibility: Barrioization and Barriology in Mario Suárez's Short Stories." (2021). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/skc/2021/Posters/19>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Shared Knowledge Conference by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

“Space, Place and Cultural Visibility:
Barrioization and Barriology in Mario Suárez’s Short Stories”

Jorge A. Hernández Jr., Ph.D. Student

Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, University of New Mexico

Abstract

Mario Suárez (1923–1998) a keen observer, short story writer, polemical essayist, aspiring novelist, devoted educator, informed activist, and tenacious editorialist does not stand as a well-known writer. Preferring to be concise and meticulous, a perfectionist, he was more interested in human character than pure craft. Born and raised in the Chicano barrio of Tucson, Arizona and as one of the most important short story writers of Mexican descent from the early mid-twentieth century, Suárez figures as a unique case of an early Mexican American writer to create a distinctively Chicano literary space. Among the many early league activists who carved a space for the Mexican American literary canon, Suárez undertook the daunting task of recording, retaining, and writing the unique cultural aura of postwar in barrio life. Keenly portraying, describing, and writing about a barrio in Tucson called El Hoyo —like many Mexican American barrios to be considered as wastelands— this desertsic milieu of America inspired him to pay close attention to its inhabitants and their mannerisms, customs and habits, their language, tendencies, and unique folklore. This study has a two-fold purpose, (i) to highlight the work of the early mid-twentieth century Mexican American writer Mario Suárez and (ii) to show how through his fiction Suárez creates a "barriological" incision against the U.S. spatial practices active in barrio life which have "placed" Chicanos in the material and symbolic geography drawn by the visible hand of urbanizing capital (Villa, 2000, 4).