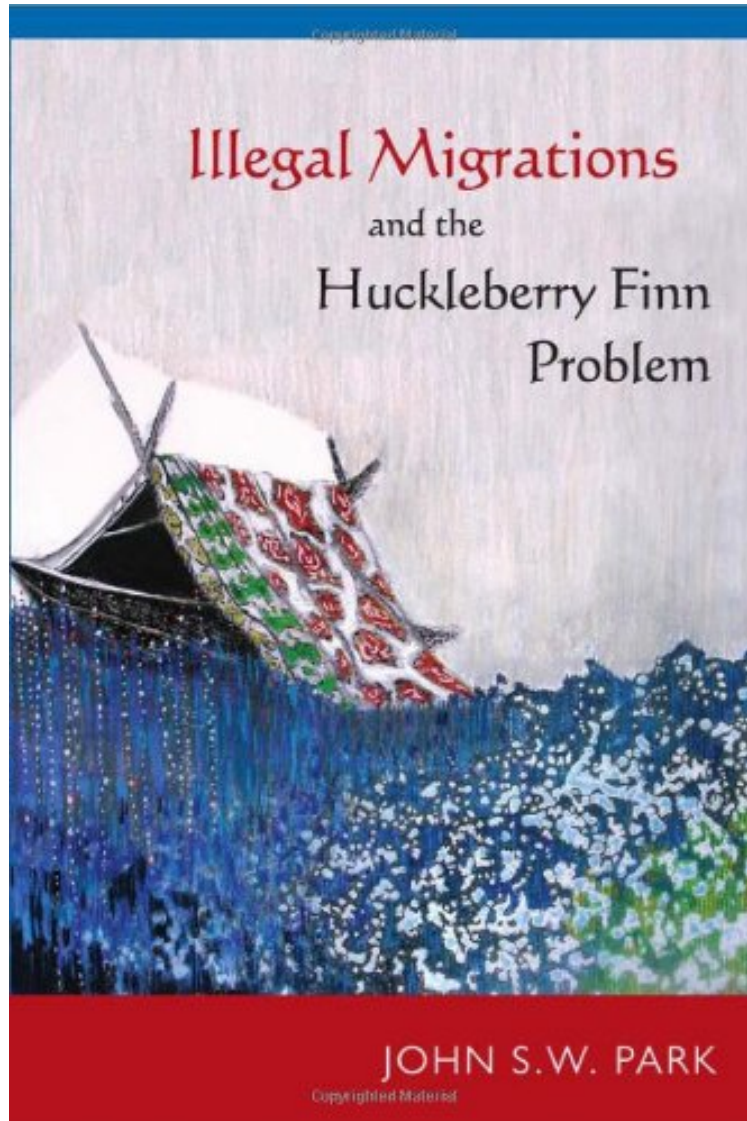


Illegal Migrations and the Huckleberry Finn Problem

John S W Park

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John S W Park : Illegal Migrations and the Huckleberry Finn Problem before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Illegal Migrations and the Huckleberry Finn Problem:

Throughout American history, citizens have encountered people who are illegal - that is, people who have no legal right to be in the United States or to freedom of movement because of their immigration status or race. Like Mark

Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, these citizens face the conflict between sympathy for the unlawful other and the force of the law. In *Illegal Migrations and the Huckleberry Finn Problem*, John Park explores recurring problems of status and illegality in American law and society by examining on-going themes in American legal history, comparative ethnic studies, and American literature. He observes that in reconsidering racially discriminatory laws, Americans have celebrated persons who were out of status, as well as the citizens who had helped them avoid American law. Similarly, in confronting illegal immigrants in our own time, many Americans have chosen to ignore or to violate federal laws in favor of assisting such persons. In light of these experiences, Park insists that the U.S. ought to rethink policies that have criminalized millions of immigrants, as the injustice of such rules has encouraged people to disobey the law, thereby undermining broader commitments to principles of equality and to the rule of law itself. John S.W. Park is an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He also serves as the Associate Director of the University of California Center for New Racial Studies.

"Park proposes a unique and innovative way to approach the quagmire of immigration reform. He uses the framework that Mark Twain used when presenting the dilemma of what is the proper response to a runaway slave and a young abandoned boy. It is Park's contention that there is much to be learned from comparing the current problems of illegal immigrants with those of fugitive slaves in antebellum America... He finds interesting linkages between the past mistreatment of people of color and what is happening today. The author pays some attention to the legal, educational, moral, and labor repercussions of the treatment of 'illegals.' Park's work is timely, well written, and extensively documented. It should find a wide audience among academics and the general population. Summing Up: Recommended."--Choice, January 2014

About the Author John S.W. Park is an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He also serves as the Associate Director of the University of California Center for New Racial Studies.