

PORTFOLIO

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Six Sides of Migration

Ricardo Gomez

Artist Statement



Photo credit: Deja View Photography

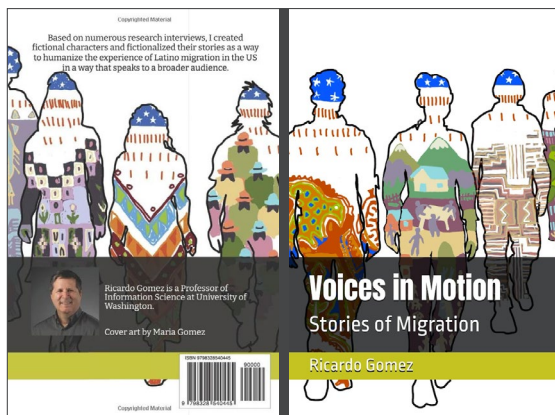
This photo collection consists of six color prints showing a visual representation of six sides of the international migration experience. *Want to stay. Want to leave. Want to return. Forced to stay. Forced to leave. Forced to return.* The different experiences of immigrants inform their information-seeking behaviors and practices *before*, *during*, and *after* the process of migration. The work is based on digitally transformed self-portraits of migrants at the US-Mexico border, and informed by research on their experience, trajectories, fears, goals, and aspirations.

Artist Bio

Dr. Ricardo Gomez explores issues of migration, technology, and sense of belonging. He publishes in academic formats as well as other creative expressions. He is a professor at the Information School, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.



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Recent publication:

Voices in Motion: Stories of Migration (Creative nonfiction)
Independently published

Available on Amazon.ca: <https://a.co/d/17EVxDb>





1. **Want to Leave:** The aspirations and dreams that fuel my voluntary migration, a journey motivated by desire, love, or opportunity.



2. **Forced to Leave:** I am compelled to flee due to war, persecution, or unbearable living conditions; a journey of survival, resilience, and the desperate search for safety and stability.



3. **Want to Stay:** The emotional attachment to my place, the place where I belong, and my desire to remain despite adversities.



4. **Forced to Stay:** I am unable to go, despite the desire to do so. My journey of responsibilities, barriers, and longing for change.



5. **Want to Return:** After spending time away, I yearn to go back to my roots. The call to return home.



6. **Forced to Return:** I am compelled to return to the place I came from, my journey disrupted, my dreams broken.