

Coachella Valley

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About David Bacon

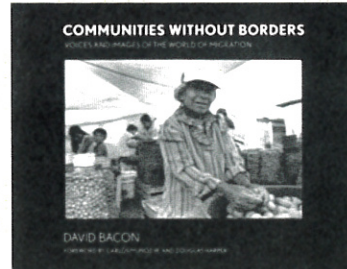
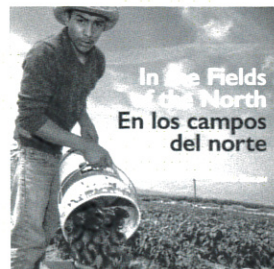
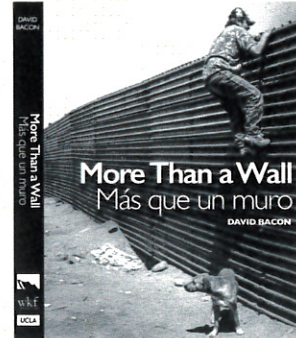
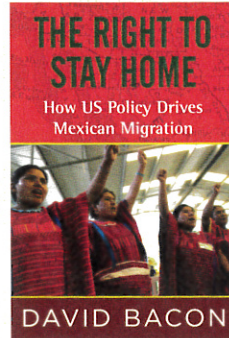
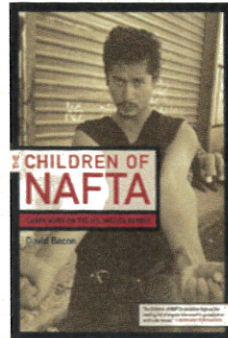
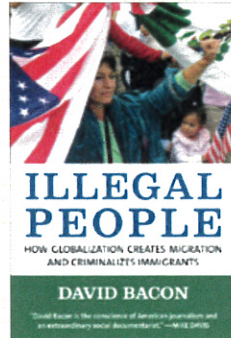
David Bacon is a California-based writer and photographer.

Bacon was a factory worker and union organizer for two decades with the United Farm Workers, the International Ladies Garment Workers and other unions. Today he documents the changing conditions in the workforce, the impact of the global economy, war and migration, and the struggle for human rights. His photography has been exhibited in the U.S., Mexico and Europe, and his articles and photo essays have been published widely.

Since 1986, David Bacon has been documenting the lives and social movements of migrants, farm workers and communities impacted by globalization through photographs and journalism.

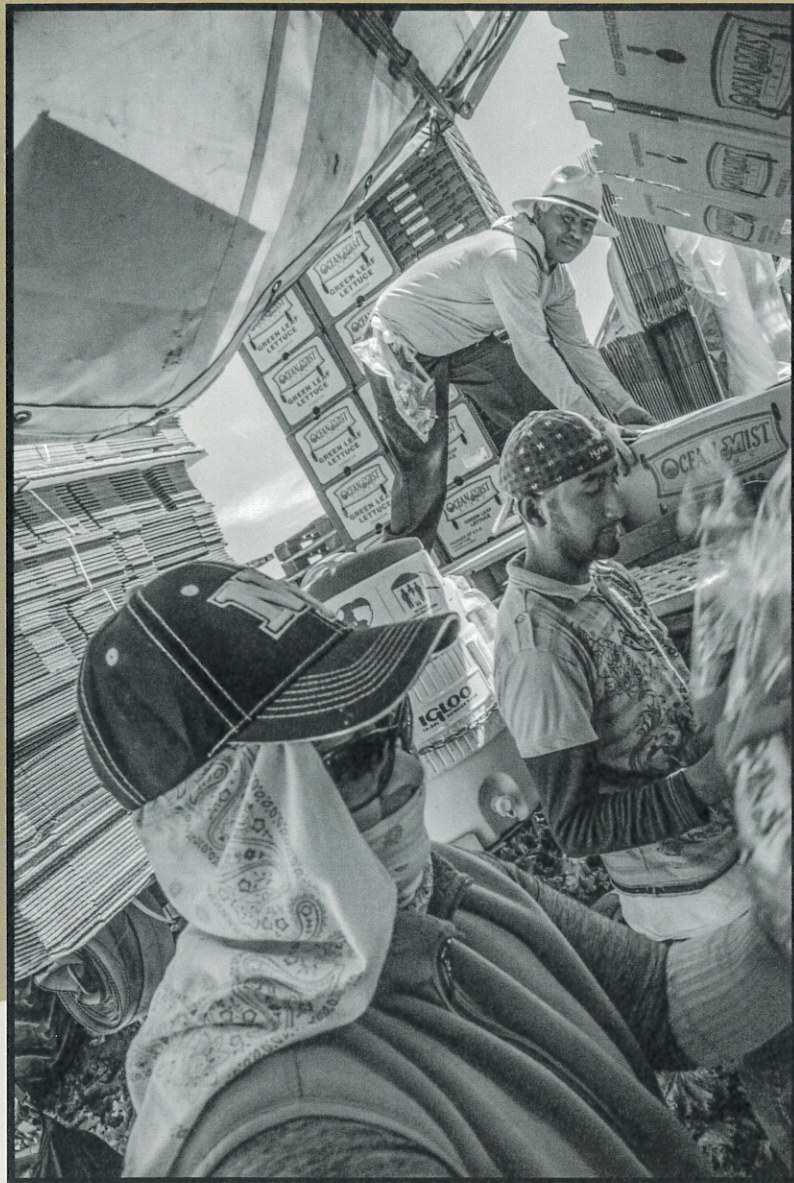
The photography archive of David Bacon was acquired by the Special Collections Department of the Green Library at Stanford University in 2019.

Books



WORKING COACHELLA:
*Images of the farmworker community
of the Coachella Valley*





(Left) COACHELLA, CA - 2019

Julian Benito picks lemons in a field near Mecca. Workers in this crew are indigenous Purepecha immigrants from Ocomichu, Michoacan.

(Below Left) COACHELLA, CA - 2006

At the height of the grape harvest in the Coachella Valley many workers bathed after work in irrigation canals and drainage ditches. Two workers from Mexicali, on the US border 100 miles to the south, cleaned up in irrigation water in a ditch emptying into the Salton Sea. The water contains pesticides and fertilizer runoff.



(Above Right) COACHELLA, CA - 2006

The Duros trailer park at sunset. Most residents were farmworkers, but many complained of crime and other dangers to families living there. The trailer park was eventually torn down and some residents were relocated.

(Right) COACHELLA, CA - 2019

Farmworkers pick and sort green beans in a field near Thermal. Aniceto Medina loads boxes of beans onto a truck in the field.



(Left) COACHELLA VALLEY, CA - 2017

On a line on the lettuce machine some workers put the lettuce heads into plastic bags and seal them with a heat sealing bar, while another worker stacks boxes. Women wear bandannas to avoid breathing the dust.



(Above) COACHELLA VALLEY, CA - 2017

Jose Cruz Frias is a farm worker, a "palmero", and works in a grove of date palms. He climbs the trees on a ladder and walks around on the fronds themselves. Cruz has been doing this work for 15 years. He originally came to the Coachella Valley from Irapuato, Guanajuato in Mexico. Palmeros are a special, almost exclusive group among farmworkers, bound together by pride in their skill, and their willingness to do dangerous work at great heights. "Only a Mexican," they say, "has the courage to do this work."



(Above) COACHELLA, CA - 2019

Julian Lida, an irrigator for a turf farm, moves the plastic irrigation pipes and sprinklers that irrigate the grass. The turf will be cut into rolls and taken to baseball and football stadiums. Lida has worked as an irrigator for over 20 years.

(Right) COACHELLA VALLEY, CA - 2017

Carlos Chavez worked over 20 years in the date palms. His hands show the lines and creases of a lifetime of hard labor in the trees. **(Below)** Carlos sits in the shade of the trailer where he lives with his daughter Michelle. Michelle was in high school, trying to win a scholarship to go to college. Carlos took her to work with him one summer, but she didn't like it, and says it motivated her to study harder.

