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This issue is dedicated to Dr. Sheryl Murphy-Manley

Singing Defiance: *El Corrido de Gregorio Cortez*

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Abstract

The complex and shifting role of the Corrido as folklore and as border rhetoric helps shape the perceptual context of Mexican American history and border cultures in Texas. Illumination of conflict between those played by rebellious heroes dissuading Anglo-archetypes portraying Texas Rangers as the heroes of all people. The various incarnations of this corrido represent a secondary history of injustice; antagonist Rangers establish a legacy mired in actions which overstep legal boundaries.

A comparison of the two historical versions of this folklore and music delineate historical figures whose stories act as toward the empowerment of common people. Differential association and strain theory provoke a theoretical model which outlines the perspectives of what historically has happened and what is legally allowed to the transitory Mexican-American people.