

# Women's Work and Chicano Families

CANNERY WORKERS OF THE  
SANTA CLARA VALLEY

*Patricia Zavella*

*Cornell University Press*

Ithaca and London

# Contents

Preface	xi
1. "Two Worlds in One": Women's Work and Family Structure	1
Linking Women's Domestic and Wage Labor	3
Chicana Labor History	6
Perspectives on Chicano Families	11
Chicana Cannery Workers	15
The Fieldwork Process	17
The Politics of Research	20
2. Occupational Segregation in the Canning Industry	30
The Canning Industry	31
Mechanization	33
The Struggle for Unionization	39
Maturation of the Canning Industry	51
The Teamsters Union	54
Job Segmentation	57
Teamster Discontent	62
Conclusion	69
3. "It Was the Best Solution at the Time": Family Constraints on Women's Work	72
Profiles	73
Childhood	82
Early Married Life	84
Deciding to Seek Work	88

## **Contents**

Child Care	92
Work Expectations	95
Conclusion	98
4. "I'm Not Exactly in Love with My Job": Cannery Work Culture	99
Production and Work Processes	101
Working Conditions	107
Work-based Networks	110
The Affirmative Action Program	120
The Meaning of Cannery Jobs	126
Conclusion	127
5. "Everybody's Trying to Survive": The Impact of Women's Employment on Chicano Families	130
Women's Perceptions	133
The Division of Housework	136
Conflict and Adaptation	142
Work-related Networks	148
The Meaning of Women's Employment	154
Conclusion	159
6. Six Years Later	162
7. Conclusion	167
References	172
Index	189