

# STRIVING FOR EQUALITY

Mexican Women in Minnesota

# A DISTINCT PROFILE

- Settlement more like European immigrants than Mexicans in the Southwest
- BUT thought temporary
- Balanced gender ratio



Mother and child, 1925

# FINDING WORK

- Railroad work pre 1910
- Mexican Revolution/World War I
- Sugar beet & packinghouse work, 1920s



Railroad workers, Illinois c. 1915

# NORTH FOR THE HARVEST

- Agricultural work family-based
- Employers housed initially
- 1923: Employers sent to urban areas after harvest

Sugar beet worker, Fisher MN 1937



# BOXCAR CAMPS

- “Colonia” forms in St. Paul
- Stereotypes prevalent
- West Side becomes worst slum



Boxcar chapel, 1949

# SOCIAL OUTREACH



Neighborhood House 1924

- 1923: settlement house focuses on “the Mexican problem”
- Client selective accommodation/resistance
- Married women key figures

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English class, 1937

# HOMEMAKERS & MORE



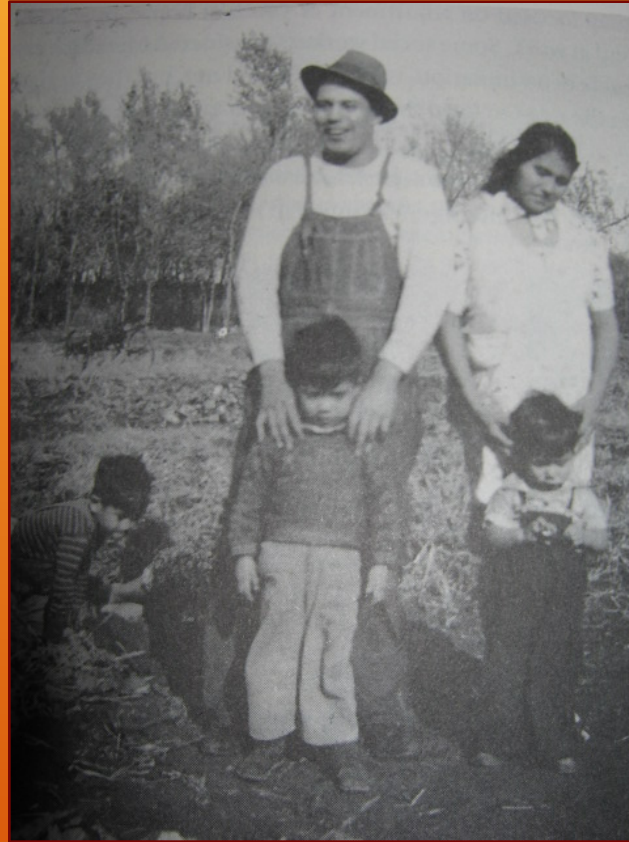
- Ideal of married woman focused on home
- Reality of periodic work
- Daughters OK to work to help family

Swede Hollow 1930s



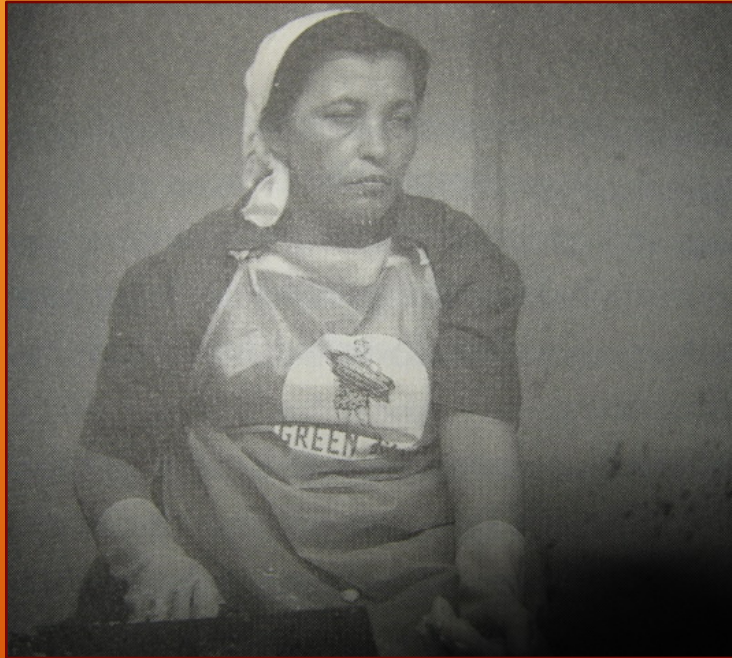
# DEPRESSION ERA

- Repatriation measures
- Reluctance to grant relief
- More families settle in urban areas



Garcia Family, 1930s

# WARTIME ERA



1948 Green Giant worker



1941 day care center

Mexican Independence Day choir, 1940, St Paul

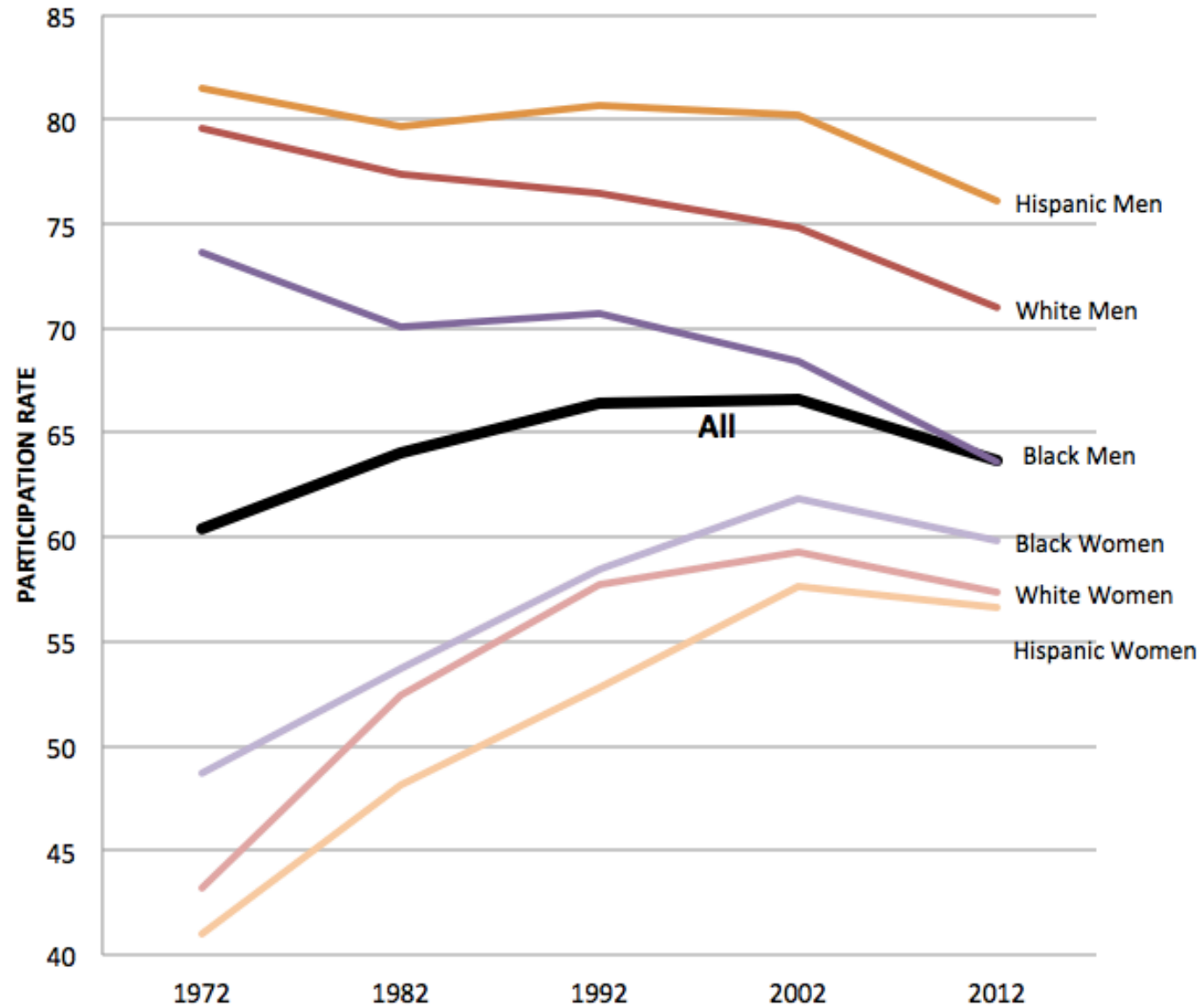
# COLD WAR PRESSURES

- Immigration Act of 1952
- 2d generation alienated in school
- 1<sup>st</sup> college entrant: 1941



Mexican celebration, 1950 St Paul

## Who Works Most? Participation Rate by Ethnicity: 1972-2012



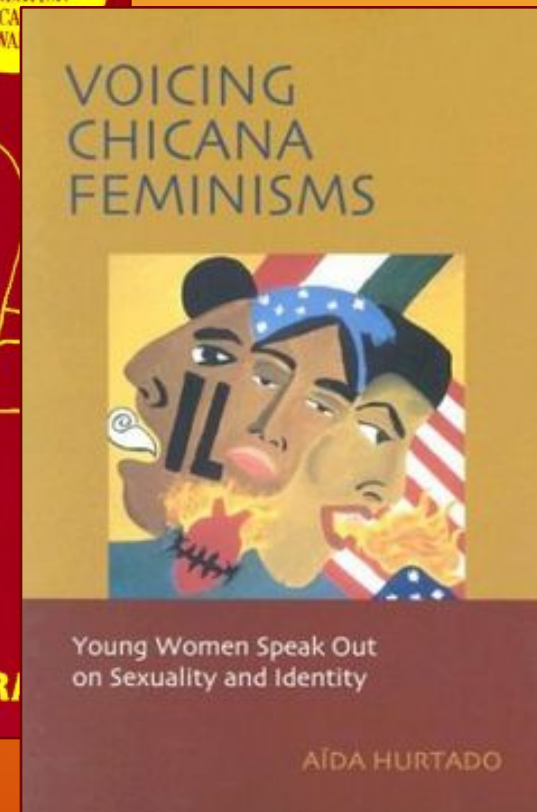
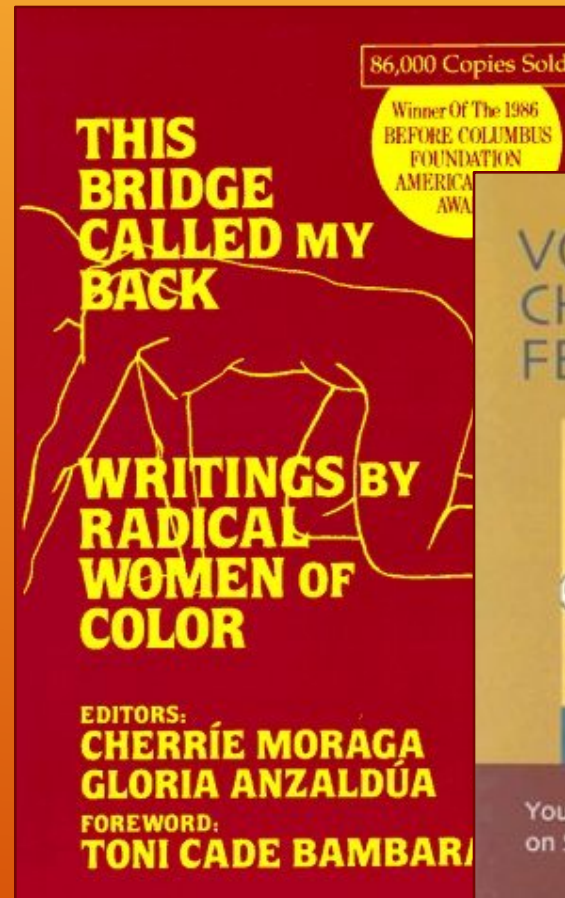
# ACTIVISM BEGINS

- Destruction of West Side, 1960-1
- UFW Strike of 1962
- La Clinica
- Brown Berets, 1969-73



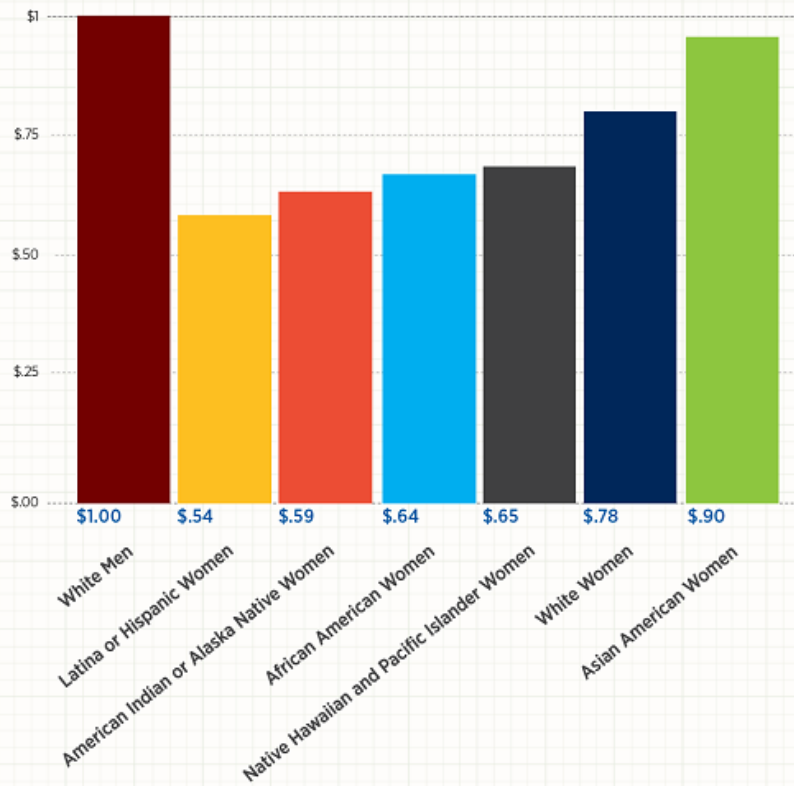
# ACTIVISM GROWS

- Feminist movement develops
- Use of term Chicana/Xicana
- Latinas Unidas Avanzando



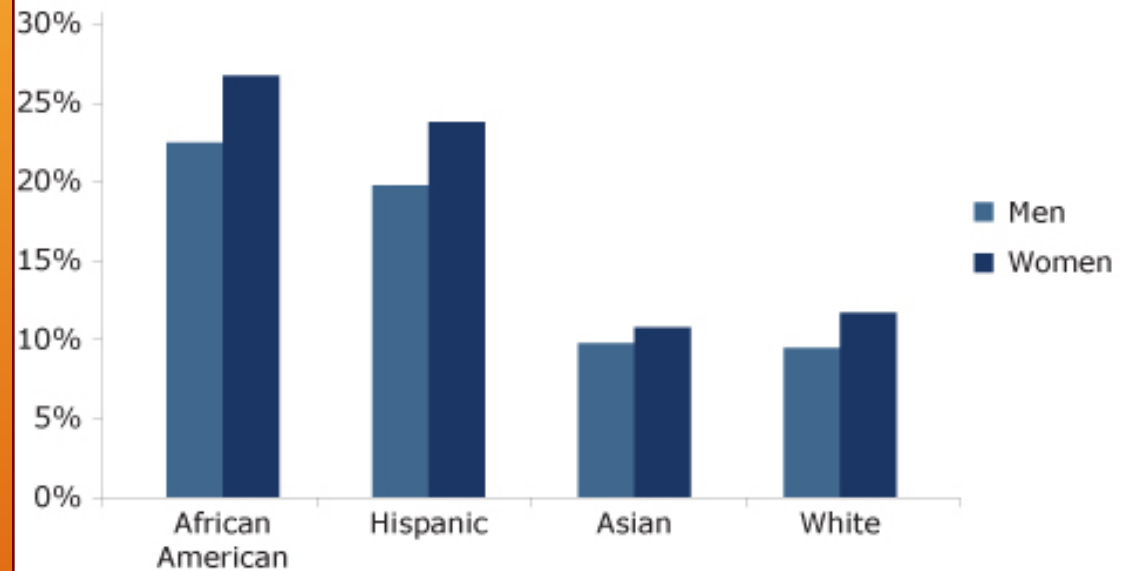
# A LONG WAY TO GO

## The Gender Wage Gap By Race



THINKPROGRESS

## Percentage of men and women in poverty by race/ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2008 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

# QUESTIONS?



Mexican Independence Day Celebration, St Paul 1970