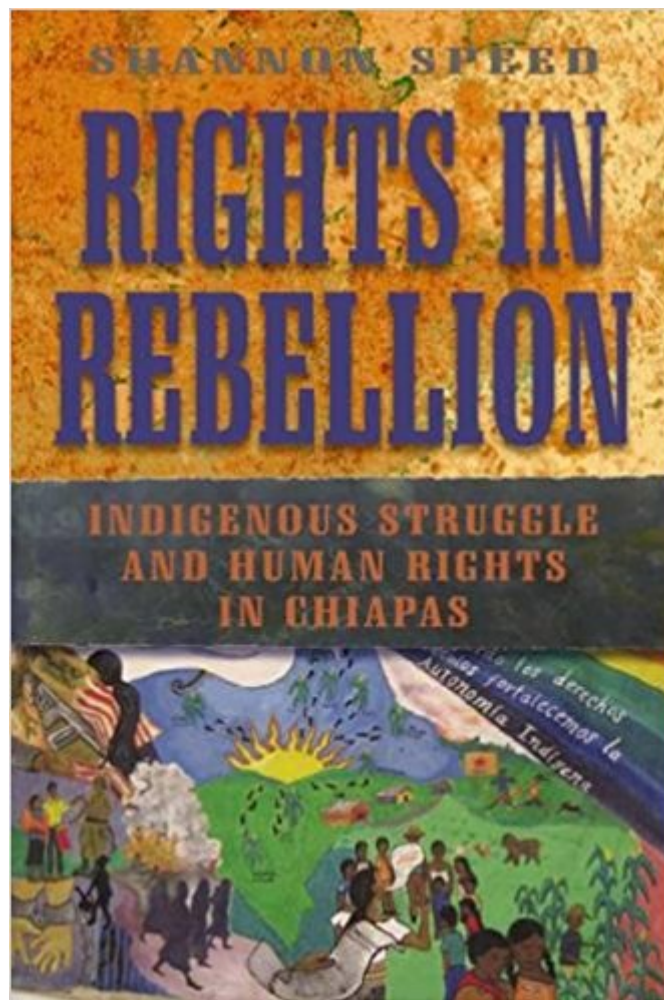




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# Rights In Rebellion: Indigenous Struggle And Human Rights In Chiapas



## Synopsis

Rights in Rebellion examines the global discourse of human rights and its influence on the local culture, identity, and forms of resistance. Through a multi-sited ethnography of various groups in the indigenous communities of Chiapas, Mexico—•from paramilitaries to a Zapatista community, an indigenous human rights organization, and the Zapatista Good Governance Councils—•the book explores how different groups actively engage with the discourse of rights, adapting it to their own individual subjectivities and goals, and develop new forms of resistance to the neoliberal model and its particular configurations of power. Far from being a traditional community study, this book instead follows the discourse of human rights and indigenous rights through their various manifestations. The author offers a compelling argument for the importance of a critical engagement between the anthropologist and her "subjects," passionately making the case for activist research and demonstrating how such an engagement will fortify and enliven academic research.

## Book Information

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"Working at the intersections between transnational rights discourses and political, legal, and ethnic movements in Mexico, Shannon Speed elegantly interweaves theoretical analysis, empirical description, historical contextualization, and personal engagement to offer a finely grained ethnography of contemporary events in Chiapas. This work will be a major and enduring contribution." (Mark Goodale George Mason University)"Shannon Speed takes a clear position as an activist anthropologist, providing valuable insights into how political commitments and participation can complement high quality research. Her work breaks important terrain in legal

anthropology." (Lynn Stephen author of *Zapatista Lives!* and *Transborder Lives*) "This excellent study belongs to the tiny percentage of works emerging out of the 1994 Zapatista rebellion that are actually based on extensive experience and engagement within the indigenous communities of Chiapas . . . This book offers insight for anyone interested in understanding the complexity of the Zapatista struggle for autonomy and getting beyond simplistic assumptions about indigenous and campesino identities and interests. It is also a valuable and thought-provoking work for scholars examining the concepts of human rights and citizenship in the era of neoliberal globalization, and for anyone concerned with the ethics and epistemology of ethnographic research." (Richard Stahler-Sholk *The Americas*) "Her book provides an illustration of the ways in which people mix ideologies and conceptions of collective and individual rights to address political and economic disadvantages in the distinct context of their communities." (The Law and Politics Book Review) "Based upon decade of experience in Chiapas, Mexico, as an activist and anthropological researcher, Speed provides a stimulating, highly readable overview of the challenges of promoting universal human rights in a local context of protracted civil war and indigenous struggle." (P. R. Sullivan)

Shannon Speed is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. She is coeditor of *Dissident Women: Gender and Cultural Politics in Chiapas* (2006).

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