

# you are here

bodies & politics

the journal of creative geography

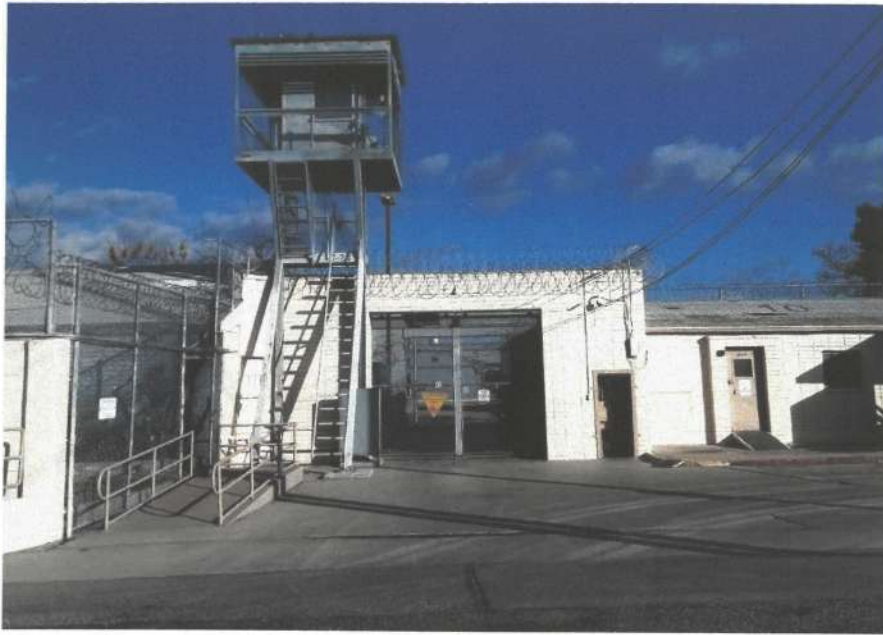


## how many euphemisms for prison are there?

by eliseo ortiz

*My work deals with challenging the boundaries of what is possible in places that are politicized. United States Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Health and Human Services, a handful of private corporations, and many local enforcement agencies across the country detain and incarcerate thousands of migrants every year. As a result, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees entering the United States have to deal with a space that is designed to surveil, persecute, process, and exclude them. In response, I launched an online platform called The Foundations of Detention to track the operations of all the immigration detention centers in the United States. This poem shows the geographic coordinates of all of these prisons along with entries about my experiences visiting and photographing them.*

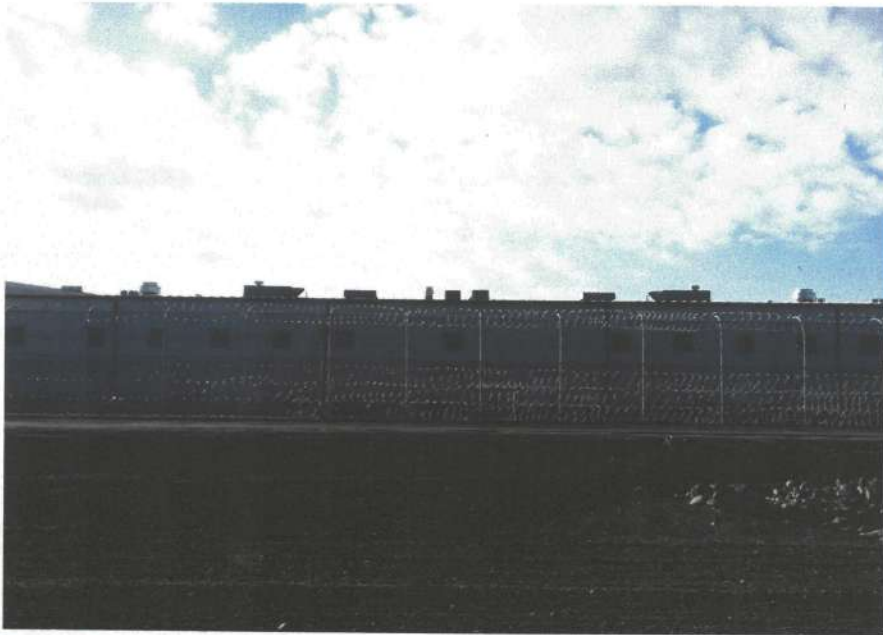
34.015682-86.011783,32.814344-111.53207,33.044050-111.37897,32.814442-111.51720,33.831353  
-112.16191,33.037056-111.37117,32.574868-116.91381, an old pick-up truck waiving a confederate  
flag passed us on our way to Estancia 29.949931 -95.312330, 30.697912 -95.005836, 31.549300  
-97.081440, 30.335843 -95.447725, 32.374484 -97.388949, 28.883190 -97.911450, correctional.  
28.884025-97.915143,28.045092-99.336110,35.380112-119.00622,38.661186-121.73004,33.663750  
-117.70072, "Trump or China" spray-painted on a piece of plywood 32.689774 -115.39764, 34.559430  
-117.44224, 33.782440 -117.88883, 38.943625 -105.15142, 39.760391 -104.84921, 38.787470  
-104.77973,30.196480-84.377230,30.295890-82.121720, three men handcuffed sitting on the side of  
the road to Calxico 26.278099 -80.152107, 26.838640 -81.123960, 25.754499 -80.488964, 28.506559  
-81.414619 house of correction 32.038166 -84.770113, 30.872135 -81.981388, 31.579800 -83.255900,  
33.434915 -84.306428, one McDonalds welcomed us as we entered this mountainous town. 43.678960  
-111.91088, 37.269527 -89.164120, 41.879087 -87.632386, 38.314290 -88.902610, 42.341641  
-88.441280, 39.523670 -87.119000, 42.011183 -93.442364, 42.359930 -93.097440, 41.653690  
-93.587181,39.046503-95.668933,38.367016-96.538358, metal structures for confinement 39.036536  
-84.728769, processing center 30.788936 -92.422846, 30.523058 -92.783043, 32.838970 -93.746410,  
31.707213-92.152531,31.582948-106.23179,27.369804-99.490204,41.240170-111.99340,40.149327  
-111.65932,37.216600,76.603600,38.111690-77.267260, a Walmart in Brownsville, Texas was turned  
into a detention facility 31.732335 -93.100504, detention complex and transitional center, 38.170240  
-75.375000, 39.365710 -77.412550, 39.169323 -76.782103, 42.333730 -71.068380, 41.665984  
-70.995366, 42.596383 -72.612363, 41.931360 -70.651410, 42.942570 -82.479984, 42.316459  
-85.175899, ten dirty Trump flags waving high at their front gates 32.208008 -95.845756, sheriff's  
office 27.529021 -99.447686, 30.337047 -95.443220, 26.156093 -97.338619, 32.421673 -97.195771,  
35.114893 -101.86734, 27.378652 -99.489159, 33.176915 -99.721699, 28.894432 -99.121226, 28.657629  
-99.201031, 41.895612 -83.399429, family residential center 47.768830 -96.628660, 43.645955  
-93.368070, 35.407849 -89.548270, 36.085367 -83.840326, 26.467596 -97.765912, 27.247915  
-98.126275, 30.741590 -98.253130, the detention center in Milan, New Mexico is right next to a truck  
stop 44.786856 -93.592500, 45.304625 -93.619068, juvenile hall 34.024903 -90.441565, 38.979510  
-91.504670, 37.019590 -93.205420, 40.926694 -98.328311, 41.011981 -95.882932, 41.252992  
-95.938247, 39.573247 -119.81069, 36.031033 -114.97881, 36.251887 -115.97717, 43.220330  
-70.938329,40.267810-74.286080, a police squad raiding a house in California, looking for something in  
the desert, across the border 40.727613 -74.107622, dormitory facility 40.720980 -74.126900,  
40.665728 -74.189613, 40.718200 -74.128570, 40.873919 -74.039622, 34.768740 -105.97278,  
35.179792 -107.90733, 32.078666 -106.27815, 43.066787 -77.031988, 42.751780 -73.816740,  
42.212619 -78.016768, Southwest Key calls them "shelters", 43.020698 -78.201797, detention center,  
42.254430 -79.503610, 44.720210 -73.467033, 41.404525 -74.360100, 41.079481 -83.153531,  
41.405704 -81.497652, 39.387967 -84.555605, 41.504680 -81.191630, 40.559888 -82.806631, a crowd  
of inmates wearing orange jumpers under the sun 35.053338 -97.936439, 36.157342 -95.998372,  
45.612756 -121.20065, 45.084270 -123.38940, 39.986474 -76.662722, 41.389109 -75.071487,  
29.834580 -95.261370, 30.565143 -97.419963, 25.942442 -97.424727, 29.373013 -100.84771,  
31.166418 -105.35209, 37.320741 -78.441108, 47.250720 -122.35549, 41.151158 -77.349472, 40.379508  
-76.015992, "No parking standing or loitering", 32.845510 -80.013930, adult detention, 44.078780  
-103.22141, 29.423540 -98.497030, 26.295858 -97.917921, 31.793911 -106.36921, 26.469820  
-97.761793, 31.982155 -106.59140, 47.249290 -122.42165, 47.422150 -122.30144, 42.594310  
-87.913192, 43.407083 -88.705671, one black car followed us out of this town, 33.063807 -111.37932,  
32.484619 -114.68466, 39.141566 -121.58691, 33.748190 -117.87451



Central Arizona Detention Center is operated by CCA in Florence, Arizona.



Imperial Regional Detention Facility is operated by Management & Training Corporation MTC in Calexico, California.



Florence Correctional Center is operated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Florence, Arizona.



El Paso County Criminal Justice Center is operated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Colorado Springs, Colorado.