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with **Kate Ebner**



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April 14th 2014: National Geographic Explorer Jason De Leon Tells the Stories of Undocumented Migration

Each year, thousands of people venture through the wilderness between the US and Mexico, risking their lives for the chance of a better future in the United States. Lawmakers, news channels, and television networks often report about the plight of these people, also known as undocumented migrants, usually focusing on issues of legality. Jason De Leon has a different approach to this story. He spends time with people planning to make the trip, then ventures into the hot desert to study the things they leave behind during their journey and then uses archaeology and anthropology to tell the story.

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Featured Guest

Guest Image

Jason De León

Jason De León is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan and the director of the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP). He received his Ph.D. from Penn State University and B.A. from UCLA. Jason is a 2013 National Geographic Emerging Explorer. He's also a singer-songwriter who has recorded and released several albums with the Long Beach, California based hardcore-reggae group Youth In Asia in the 1990s and with the Central Pennsylvania based group The Wilcox Hotel. He also records and performs as a solo artist and has toured extensively in the U.S. and Mexico. Jason once hosted a short-lived television show on the Discovery Channel called American Treasures.

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