

**Abstract:**

This paper explores the binary narrative surrounding undocumented immigrants in the U.S., specifically focusing on the "Dreamer" archetype established by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy and its relationship with other pervasive media metaphors. The paper investigates several key metaphors, including the immigrant as animal, commodity, alien, line-cutter, wave/flood, and virus, and demonstrates how they function as structural tools to legitimize the exclusion of immigrants. By utilizing these conceptual instruments, citizens control the terms of the debate, reinforcing the illusion of procedural fairness that ultimately undermines the immigrant cause. Critically, both anti-immigrant and pro-immigrant rhetoric (such as the need for immigrants as economic "commodity") often share the capacity to objectify and de-humanize. The Dreamer Narrative itself is a metaphor that, while granting a precarious legitimacy to some, perpetually reinforces the "good immigrant/bad immigrant" binary, compelling migrants to perpetually perform American ideals and obscuring the systemic violence and historical context of immigration restrictions.

**Keywords:** Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Dreamer narrative, Immigration metaphors, Good immigrant/ bad immigrant binary, Legitimacy and procedural fairness