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## A PRACTICAL THEOLOGY OF LEADERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL VOICES

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**Abstract:** Branson and Martínez have written elsewhere on matters of church leadership; in this article, they focus on contributions to this topic by scholars from other nations. They use the frame of practical theology to structure their inquiry, modeling the value of input from social theory, migration studies, various Christian resources, and personal and corporate local narratives. They posit that church leaders need to listen not only to international scholars but also to the international voices in their own church pews and in other churches. In particular, they draw attention to how the growing Latino population in the United States should impact our understanding of leadership.

### Introduction

In broad terms, leadership is about shaping learning environments and connecting with diverse resources so that a social group can engage in change. Such environments are composed of men and women and their relationships, the habits they inhabit, the memories and knowledge readily available, their shared imaginary concerning identity and agency, their cooperative activities, and how they understand and relate to men and women who are near to or far from their group.

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*Branson and Martínez co-authored Churches, Cultures and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities (IVP Academic, 2011)*