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The Connected City: How Networks are Shaping the Modern Metropolis

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BRIEFLY NOTED

From Africa to America: Religion and Adaptation Among Ghanaian Immigrants in New York, by **Moses O. Biney**. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2011. 209pp. \$45.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780814786390.

In *From Africa to America*, Moses O. Biney delivers an ethnographic account of Ghanaian immigration to New York. The book affords insight into the relationship between religion and immigration. Biney addresses the connection between immigration and the church, specifically, the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. This church is not simply an enclave of protection, but a communal space where an interrogation between home culture and American culture takes place. Immigrants are faced with two opposing models of integration: assimilation and multiculturalism. The church becomes a place of conflict and cohesion due to the contradictory nature of immigrants' experiences. He structures his book around the conflicting and cohesive elements of immigrants' experiences within and outside of the church.

A series of painful stories and narratives expresses the cultural conflict within the church. The striking accounts are complimented with photographs of the named people and places. The members of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana in New York (PCGNY) come from a Ghanaian homeland that is not monocultural; therefore, the diversity within the congregation leads to leadership, gender, and multigenerational conflict. Biney's sociological approach to the conflict provides discussion on gender roles, racial identity, and cultural pluralism. Religiously, conflict arises at the crossroads of biblical life guidance and American socio-cultural life.

Accounts of successful integration into American culture, while maintaining Ghanaian identity, provide the basis for Biney's argument of the church as a source of cohesion. He tells the story of one successful Ghanaian American doctor who argues that adaptation strategies, such as gaining legal

status and further education, are crucial to success in America. He adds that the church promotes a harmonious communal lifestyle reminiscent of "compound houses" in Ghana. Immigrants' involvement in the communal lifestyle helps them to avoid feelings of isolation resulting from the harsh American individualism. Theologically, the author describes a Ghanaian belief in a holistic salvation that supports physical as well as spiritual needs.

Biney contends that Ghanaian's search for survival and adaptation in New York led to the formation of the PCGNY as a spiritual and communal institution. The church has grown from 30 members in the 1980s to over 350 members today; it is religiously, culturally, sociologically, economically, and politically significant to immigrants in New York. Biney's wealth of theological and sociological knowledge comprises a book worth reading for anyone interested in the relationship of religious institutions to immigration.

Different Gods: Integrating Non-Christian Minorities Into a Primarily Christian Society, by **Raymond Breton**. Montréal, CAN: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2012. 222pp. \$27.95 paper. ISBN: 9780773539938.

The religious demography of immigrants to Western countries has changed from primarily Christian to considerably non-Christian in recent decades. This process can cause a host of challenges for immigrants and their receiving countries. In *Different Gods*, Raymond Breton summarizes and analyzes the recent research on religious minorities and their experiences integrating into the larger society, focusing on Canada and the United States with some European comparisons. Not only do the religious customs, values, and identities of newcomers change, but the institutions and collective identities of receiving societies also change in response to religious pluralism. Integration of immigrants is interactive and mutual, and the

evolution of both immigrants and mainstream society is inevitable.

Different Gods is a good place to start for those looking into the literature on religious minority immigrants. The book is divided into four parts of two chapters each. Part One concerns the process of immigrant transplantation. Part Two delves into the challenges of members of minority groups after immigration regarding their religious identities and practices. In Part Three, Breton considers how religious institutions transform to meet the needs of their members in their particular social circumstances as individuals undergo acculturation. Finally, Part Four deals with how the mainstream society comes to incorporate religious minorities. While investigating current research on non-Christian minorities, Breton also points out the holes in the literature and where future research is needed on these topics. It is clear that research on religion must acknowledge the flow of immigration, and immigration research cannot ignore religion. Scholars on religion and immigration alike will find *Different Gods* to be informative.

Queer Youth Suicide, Culture and Identity: Unliveable Lives?, by **Rob Cover**. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2012. 172pp. \$99.95 cloth. ISBN: 9781409444473.

Suicide among young people is a growing social problem. Though youth who experience suicide ideation come from a wide variety of different backgrounds, a common characteristic among young individuals who attempt suicide is a feeling of hopelessness and the inability to cope. Research indicates that among adolescents and emerging adults, queer youth, broadly defined as youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered (GLBT), are more likely to contemplate, attempt, and successfully execute suicide. The disproportionate number of queer youth who attempt suicide has led many researchers to hypothesize what is it about "queerness" that makes these youth more at risk for suicide and how we can mediate this effect. In his book, *Queer Youth Suicide, Culture and Identity: Unliveable Lives?*, Rob Cover argues that it is not queerness

that leads to an increased risk of suicide in GLBT youth. Rather, increased risk of suicide in queer youth can be attributed to a broader social context that embraces, upholds, and perpetuates heteronormativity. In other words, queerness as risk is culturally constructed.

To make his case, Cover draws heavily on the poststructuralist works of Judith Butler and Michel Foucault, arguing that competing power structures create this idea of vulnerable queer youth through a variety of different mediums, including everyday language and the media. Cover effectively shows how representations of GLBT men and women in popular films and television have essentially equated being queer to being at risk for suicide. He then goes on to explain the tension between identifying as a sexual minority and the larger heteronormative culture that shames and stigmatizes queer identity. Cover supports his arguments quite well.

With clear and non-technical writing, this book is an appropriate read for anyone interested in youth suicide broadly speaking, and queer youth suicide in particular.

Race and Entrepreneurial Success: Black-, Asian-, and White-Owned Businesses in the United States, by **Robert W. Fairlie** and **Alicia M. Robb**. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2010. 240pp. \$18.00 paper. ISBN: 9780262514941.

Along with growing scholarly interests in entrepreneurship, empirical analyses have been extensively conducted by sociologists and economists on socioeconomic determinants of business success with its contextual predictors. This book by Robert Fairlie and Alicia Robb especially focuses on racial inequality in entrepreneurial performance, in terms of business closure, profit size, paid employee(s), and size of sales. Their discussion preliminarily starts from the question, why is the entrepreneurial performance of African American- or Latino-owned businesses statistically inferior than that of White- or Asian American-owned ones, and why have these racial patterns remained roughly unchanged over the past two decades?

One of the important merits this book has is the use of restricted data of the Characteristics of Business Owners (CBO), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, enabling the authors to explore the financial, human, and social capital to explain the discrepancy in entrepreneurial performance among racial- and ethnic-minorities. According to Fairlie and Robb, intergenerational links in business ownership, the owners' education level, prior work experience in a similar business, and the size of startup capital are particularly important factors that explain the discrepancy in entrepreneurial dynamics. Policy implications are offered in Chapter Six, and useful descriptions on some data sets for further researchers who are interested in racial inequality on business performance are also provided in the appendix. *Race and Entrepreneurial Success* adopts various quantitative methods, assuming readers to at least have an intermediate level of knowledge on quantitative analytic techniques, including OLS, logistic, and probit models with some familiarity of the nonlinear Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition method.

What Can We Learn From the Study of Twins?: An Evaluation of the Equal Environments Assumption, by **Jacob Felson**. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2012. 139pp. \$129.95 cloth. ISBN: 9780773429079.

Studying twins gives researchers the ability to distinguish between genetic and environmental influences on behavior. Monozygotic, or identical, twins share 100 percent of their DNA, while dizygotic, or fraternal, twins share only half of their genes. Consequently, detection of greater similarity in myriad psychosocial outcomes in monozygotic versus dizygotic twins would indicate that said outcomes have a genetic root. As useful as twin studies are in assessing the relative contributions of genes and environment to behavioral and social outcomes, these naturally occurring experiments are not perfect. Indeed, researchers who utilize the twin study methodology rely on a crucial assumption: similarity in the social environment of identical twins does not translate into similarity in outcomes. In his book,

What Can We Learn From the Study of Twins?, Jacob Felson both acknowledges the evidence that supports this equal environments assumption (EEA), while also asserting that the EEA should not be viewed as a single assumption that can be confirmed or denied. Instead, Felson argues that there should not be an EEA and that the presence of equal environments should be evaluated and controlled for as opposed to taken as a given in twin research.

Though the book is written for an academic audience, the language is not overly technical and can be understood by anyone vaguely familiar with the literature on twin study methodology and/or the influence that genes and environments have on human behavior. Felson organizes his book much like an empirical research article, starting with an extensive literature review before delving into research methods, analysis, and conclusions. Though the author finds that heritability estimates for behavior, or the net impact that genes have on behavioral outcomes, may be biased due to the unequivocal acceptance of the EEA, these biases are small. Further, Felson concludes that genetic similarity is a very real determinant of similarity in behavioral outcomes and that similarity in the environment may serve as a mediator to the relationship between genes and outcomes. In summation, *What Can We Learn From the Study of Twins?* is a must read for scholars who engage in twin research and for members of the broader academic audience who are interested in the relative contributions of both nature (genes) and nurture (the environment).

Rape in Chicago: Race, Myth, and the Courts, by **Dawn Rae Flood**. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2012. 235pp. \$55.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780252036897.

In *Rape in Chicago: Race, Myth, and the Courts*, Dawn Rae Flood analyzes the intersection of two highly controversial and extremely sensitive topics that often, unfortunately and uncomfortably, overlap—rape and racism. In reviewing over ninety rape trials in Chicago from the period of 1936 to 1976, Flood reconstructs individual narratives from trial

proceedings, medical history, and news coverage in order to examine how both plaintiffs and defendants dually challenged, and were challenged by, a judicial system historically prejudiced against women and blacks. Notably, in this analysis she seeks to explore the “how” and “why” of individual behaviors, rather than evaluate the truthfulness of claims. In doing so, she highlights the struggles of three less privileged groups—women, African American men, and African American women—whose desire for justice and rights were often in competition.

Beginning with the narrative of Anna Brasy, the victim of a violent and highly publicized rape, Chapter One covers the years leading up to the 1960s with a focus on the experiences of women. This important reanalysis finds that prosecutors were more responsive and protective of victims’ personal histories and circumstances than previous literature has asserted. Chapters Two and Three both examine the racial myths that African American men and women respectively struggled against in modern Chicago; Chapter Two focuses on defense efforts to combat perceptions of black men as sexually dangerous; and Chapter Three illuminates the hardship of black women and the dependence of defense attorneys on sexist, racist, and classist attitudes in order to defend clients.

Transitioning to the post-1960s, Chapter Four weaves the influence of federal decisions into the local narratives of rape and shows how improvements in defendants’ rights made courtrooms more hostile for women, with their actions and sexual reputations suddenly under more significant scrutiny. Finally, Chapter Five evaluates the activism of second wave feminists on external support structures and reforms within the court. This last chapter notes the importance of such changes, but also presents the racial limitations of such gendered activism. Although Flood concludes with modern anecdotes of rape that show the persistence of rape myths, these examples also demonstrate positive change—a product of the past bravery of ordinary victims and defendants. With its holistic focus, and thorough analysis, this book has an insightful and novel historic perspective, and is a beneficial read for anyone attempting to understand

the modern underpinnings of rape myths and the potential for the power of individual agency to create change.

Brazilian Immigration and the Quest for Identity, by **Catarina Fritz**. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2011. 159pp. \$65.00 cloth. ISBN: 9781593323851.

Brazilian Immigration and the Quest for Identity analyzes the process of adaptation and integration of young Brazilian immigrants to American society. The book begins with a brief overview of the emigration patterns from Brazil, which had historically been a destination for migrants from all over the world. However, from the 1980s this trend reversed, and now the country that has received the largest number of Brazilians is the United States. One of the most popular destinations has been New England, where many Brazilian communities have developed. This book focuses on young immigrants, either born in the United States, or emigrated before the age of 11, living in the Boston area, as it hosts the largest of these communities.

The first main research topic that Catarina Fritz investigates is how the lack of documentation affects the life chances, in terms of higher education and work perspectives, of the respondents. The second topic concerns the process of adaptation from a racially fluid society to a society with rigid racial categorization, and how this adaptation influences their assimilation in the United States.

A total of fifty-three second-generation Brazilians from the Boston area, recruited through a snow-ball purposive sample, participated in the study. Through detailed semi-structured in-depth interviews, Fritz gives the reader the possibility to enter the lives of the respondents, with a particular focus on their personal experiences and expectations regarding race, ethnic identification, education, and work. The case studies have different characteristics, in terms of legal status, SES, area of residence, race, and ethnicity, thus representing a very diverse group.

The importance of the topic, the well-structured research design, and the pleasant narrative style make this book useful and interesting for all social science scholars,

policy makers, social science students at both graduate and undergraduate level, as well as for the lay public.

Latino Immigrants in the United States, by **Ronald L. Mize** and **Grace Peña Delgado**. Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2012. 194pp. \$22.95 paper. ISBN: 9780745647432.

In *Latino Immigrants in the United States*, Ronald L. Mize and Grace Peña Delgado explore the historical, social, and political complexities surrounding Latino immigration in the United States. Mize and Delgado present the numerous intricacies surrounding immigration, covering a wide range of topics, from immigrant rights, identity construction, nativism, political and cultural citizenship, social movements, and the devastating effects of neoliberalism.

In Chapter One, Mize and Delgado analyze the contemporary debates on immigration, while discussing the dangerous trends of anti-immigrant sentiments, violence, and the rise of racialized attacks. Chapter Two explores the Latino experience and the creation of a collective identity within the Latino community—what the authors refer to as *Latinidad*, the creation of an intra-ethnic alliance, despite dominant categorizations from above. Chapter Three takes us upon the immigrant's path to citizenship, illuminating the many hardships faced in acquiring "legal" status. Chapter Four takes this idea one step further, and presents the idea of a "cultural citizenship," as a response to "neo-nativism" and exploitation at the workplace, where Latino immigrant unions and immigrant rights-based movements have played a crucial role in expanding the dialogue between the exploited and the exploiters. Chapter Five discusses the journey of assimilation and the consequences of a militarized border, nativist vigilante groups, and anti-immigration legislation, within the context of transnationalism. Chapter Six addresses the impacts of neoliberalism and more generally, the effects of contemporary globalization. So-called free trade agreements "have increased poverty and threaten the viability of subsistence economies..." (p. 136), suggest Mize and Delgado, which has had the effect of

increasing migration to the north. Chapter Seven concludes by focusing on the most pressing issues facing Latinos in the upcoming 25 years. Demographers point out that Latinos will become the majority population in the American Southwest, and represent a majority elsewhere in the United States. The authors explore what this might mean politically, socially, and economically in the not-too-distant future.

Latinos currently represent the largest ethnic minority in the United States, and demographic projections estimate that the Latino population will make up 30 percent of the total U.S. population by 2050. In the era of nativism and austerity, immigrants have become useful scapegoats for social ills. They are marginalized voices in public affairs, operating at the margins of society. Undocumented immigrants are especially vulnerable (they account for roughly 11 million people in the United States) and are living in a state of perpetual fear of the threat of deportation, legal vulnerability, or exploitation at the workplace. *Latino Immigrants in the United States* is a timely corrective to the current debates surrounding Latino immigration and does a wonderful job at illuminating the struggles immigrants face. This book will serve as a useful companion to sociologists, political scientists, international economists, historians, and those concerned about one of the most pressing issues of the day.

The Connected City: How Networks are Shaping the Modern Metropolis, by **Zachary P. Neal**. New York, NY: Routledge, 2013. 255pp. \$45.95 paper. ISBN: 9780415881425.

Zachary P. Neal uses a structuralist, network-based approach to understand how cities work, addressing the patterns of relationships between people and places. The book provides a new way to make sense of cities and urban phenomena through a network perspective. Building the analysis on three levels of networks—micro-urban, meso-urban, and macro-urban—Neal demystifies networks and network analysis. He stresses that network analysis does not ignore contextual elements like culture because networks are the contexts. Looking at the *measurable* relations between people and cities,

and between cities, he argues that we can overcome the misconception that studies on networks are mathematically complicated. This book illustrates networks' simultaneous role as both a theory and a methodology.

The book is organized into three sections according to the scale of the networks and the level of analysis. Part I focuses on networks within cities at an everyday level, depicting personal social networks, the role of communities in modern city life, and the formation of subcultures and ethnic enclaves. Part II views the city itself as a living organism, whose functioning relies on a wide range of intersecting and overlapping networks such as infrastructure and social services. The macro-urban networks in three geographical domains—regional, national, and global—are investigated in the last section of the book, where Neal demonstrates the ways in which entire cities are linked to each other, within a world-city network.

Each chapter in this book includes both main text and method notes; given the reader's interest in either theory or method, or both, it can be read in various ways. At the end of each chapter, Neal provides discussion questions and activities for classroom teaching. It will be useful to both undergraduate students and graduate students within and beyond sociology, including geography and political science.

Work Time: Conflict, Control, and Change, by **Cynthia L. Negrey**. Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2012. 235pp. \$22.95 paper. ISBN: 9780745654263.

By approaching the concepts of time and labor as emergent historical phenomena, Cynthia Negrey provides an interesting critical perspective on our contemporary notions of work time and leisure time. Just as importantly, however, Negrey's work is an excellent example of good sociological analysis which illuminates the underlying social characteristics of dominant institutions.

Beginning with a look at the dynamics of labor and leisure time in early hunter-gatherer societies, the book first disabuses us of the notion that labor time made up the bulk of one's daily life. Instead, we are

provided with research that suggests humans of the period devoted a greater amount of time to rest and leisure than their contemporary counterparts. Negrey also traces the emergence of church/medieval time and its eventual commodification in the face of industrial time-discipline. Negrey then devotes a portion of the text to discussing the various conflicts that emerged in the public realm over issues of working hours, as well as the problems of time management faced by working families. In addition, the text provides a wide array of data on domestic and global labor hours, productivity, and non-standard work and work schedules. All of this culminates in a critical discussion on the emergence of digital workplaces and the continued emphasis of labor hours over productivity in a labor market dominated by task-oriented and service-based jobs (as opposed to time-oriented, Fordist-style production).

Because Negrey's book covers such a wide range of topics, some scholars may find the work to be cursory. Regardless, Negrey presents an interesting thesis and then musters evidence across a variety of disciplinary boundaries to demonstrate her point in a manner that is both engaging and accessible. Thus, *Work Time* is a wonderful book for undergraduate courses in sociology, labor studies, or gender studies. Not only is it easily accessible to a general audience, it is organized in such a fashion as to provide an excellent framework for classroom discussions. Furthermore, Negrey's book provides students with an example of well-written and methodologically diverse sociological analysis. As the book touches upon a wide array of interest areas, it would be remiss to only recommend this book to labor scholars. Instead, any student with an interest in the complex interweaving of time, labor, production, and gender should make an effort to read this book.

Power and Transnational Activism, edited by **Thomas Olesen**. New York, NY: Routledge, 2011. 264pp. \$130.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780415-553698.

During recent decades we have witnessed some intermittent, but huge, waves of transnational activism against neoliberal

globalization. Since anti-WTO protests in Seattle in 1999, anti-G8 summit protests burst out repeatedly in 2001, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2011. These events set the scene for a great deal of scholarly books and articles, attracting the attention of many sociologists and political scientists to theory-building and empirical analyses of transnational activism. *Power and Transnational Activism*, edited by Thomas Olesen, reflects the efforts to strike a balance between optimism and pessimism on the past and future of anti-globalization protests from a synthetic perspective of discursive opportunity structures facing transnational activists.

Contributors consistently emphasize interdisciplinary communicative approaches, securitization theory from international relations theory, and framing and discursive opportunities from social movement theory, in order to discuss strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities and limits in transnational activism. Power and its limits of transnational activists are primarily appraised by Ulrich Beck, David Chandler, and Ruth Reitan, respectively, in terms of global public awareness, negative rejection of state-based politics, and coordination of major leftist philosophy. While discussing under the rubric of transnationalism, some contributors including Jeffrey Ayres, Donatella della Porta and Herbert Reiter, Caroline Fleay, and Sarah Stroup also persuasively reveal how national contexts create and change transnational opportunity structures. Shannon Gibson, Anna Holscheiter, Jutta Joachim, Dieter Rucht, and Håkan Thörn, in the final section, discuss the impacts of international institutional and mainstream media on the national shapes of transnational activism.

Jewish Feminists: Complex Identities and Activist Lives, by **Dina Pinsky**. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2010. 137pp. \$20.00 paper. ISBN: 9780252076770.

In the study of intersectionality, scholars examine the relationship between gender and other identities, often race and class. However, there is an absence of scholarship

on the relationship between gender and Jewish identity. In *Jewish Feminists: Complex Identities and Activist Lives*, Dina Pinsky fills in the research void by investigating the identities of second-wave Jewish feminists, who participated in the feminist movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Through the use of 30 interviews, five of which are with men, Pinsky asks respondents if they find their Jewish and feminist identities in conflict with one another. What follows is a paradoxical mixture of contradiction, ambivalence, and passion, which seems to highlight the complexity underlying the construction of a Jewish feminist identity.

The study indicates that the ways in which Jewish feminists form their multiple identities varies, leading some to find tension between being Jewish and being a feminist while others find the identities to complement one another. Feminist women who view their Jewish identity as rooted in the Jewish religion appear to face the predicament of participating in a patriarchal religion. While some of these women attempt to create gender equality within the religion, others doubt whether or not anyone can remove patriarchy from Judaism. Another group of feminists view their Jewish identity as a cultural identity, and suggest that Jews and women share a common history of oppression. As a result, these women believe that their Jewish and feminist identities coincide with one another.

For the small number of male Jewish feminists interviewed, they construct a "discourse of Jewish alternative masculinity," through which they perceive Jewish men to be gentle, nonviolent, and welcoming of gender equality. However, some appear to understand that this general notion of Jewish men is somewhat romanticized. Pinsky illustrates here and throughout the book that the construction of a Jewish feminist identity faces contradictions at times, but nonetheless persists in the lives of these Jewish feminists.

Pinsky's work introduces the unique cultural experience of Jews into the feminist dialogue with much success. Scholars interested in women's studies, sociology of gender, and Jewish studies will find the book

informative and enjoyable from chapter to chapter.

teaching students about the intersection of immigration, gender, and citizenship.

Reinventing the Republic: Gender, Migration, and Citizenship in France, by **Catherine Raissiguier**. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010. 195pp. \$23.95 paper. ISBN: 9780804757621.

In *Reinventing the Republic*, Catherine Raissiguier masterfully explores the sans-papiers movement in France from a unique feminist standpoint. The sans-papiers movement is an immigration movement that is rooted in undocumented families that are most vulnerable to the changes in immigration law in France. Based on Raissiguier's own fieldwork in Paris and Marseilles, she explores how the undocumented women in the sans-papiers movement have built their organization from the ground up and changed the laws that specifically affect them. She also analyses the larger political and cultural context that surrounds French immigration in the public sphere. Similarly, she refutes the post-colonial images used in the media by presenting real stories of the unbelievably courageous sans-papiers. Raissiguier explores the discrimination that they encounter on a daily basis in addition to evaluating various racial stereotypes that exist in French culture. Toward the end, she links racism, homophobia, and sexism in anti-immigration rhetoric and images in an incredibly original manner.

Raissiguier, who is particularly sensitive to her subjects and their families throughout the entire book, brings a feminist perspective to a movement that is just as captivating as her own writing on the matter. She beautifully illustrates the background of French immigration via comics and stories that help the reader to understand the cultural and political climate at the time she did her fieldwork. Overall, the book teaches the reader all about the nuances and issues inherent to the sans-papiers movement. Anyone interested in immigration and social movements will find *Reinventing the Republic* thought-provoking and hard to put down. It will be a perfect teaching companion for

Chicanas of 18th Street: Narratives of a Movement from Latino Chicago, by **Leonard G. Ramirez, et al.** Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2011. 224pp. \$27.00 paper. ISBN: 9780252078125.

Chicanas of 18th Street is the result of a collaborative project documenting the activism of six Chicanas. This book is based on these women's personal stories and their path to political activism. During the 1960s and 1970s, the demographics of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood began to change. Eastern Europeans left the neighborhood and Mexican-origin settlers arrived. What was once a bohemian center became Casa Aztlán, a community-based organization that housed adult-education programs, art studios, and a health clinic; and it offered a space for community gatherings crucial for the development of a political network. Even though their individual paths to Pilsen and to "el Comité" were different, all of them became involved in a Pilsen community political network during the 1970s. The network mobilized the community to political participation.

A unifying theme emerges from the narrative of these women. They describe how racial prejudices and segregation affected both their personal lives and their communities. They felt alienated by the U.S. mainstream, yet they did not identify with Mexico or as Mexicans. Through their political involvement and social activism, these women were empowered to carve out an identity as Chicanas. In addition to developing a collective identity, their activism provided a channel to express their discontent with the social, racial, and economic inequality they experienced in their daily lives.

Participating in local politics for these women meant more than marching and protesting, as they saw their community involvement as a form of political and social activism. Some of the women formed a picket line to demand the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to hire Mexican-origin

drivers. Isaura González travelled with farmworker organizers and picketed in front of grocery stores in the city. María Gamboa and Victoria Pérez became involved with "Compañía Trucha," a theater company whose members saw themselves as popular educators. Cristina Vital and her partner founded "Librería Nuestro Continente" (Our Continent Bookstore), a Chicano bookstore in Chicago that sold books in English and Spanish. The bookstore also had a room to hold events or meetings, offered English lessons, and screened films after which the owners encouraged discussions.

Leonard Ramírez, et alia, produced this book with the purpose of furnishing young social justice activists and scholars with a secondary source of information to initiate the study of the political activism of this period. Their book will appeal to scholars and a general audience interested in oral history, social movements, stratification, gender studies, and Latino/a studies.

Imagining Black Womanhood: The Negotiation of Power and Identity Within the Girls Empowerment Project, by **Stephanie D. Sears**. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2010. 189pp. \$21.95 paper. ISBN: 9781438433264.

In *Imagining Black Womanhood*, Stephanie D. Sears tackles complex questions surrounding identity work by asking how identity is negotiated across power, race, gender, and age. Conducting ethnographic research at the Girls Empowerment Project (GEP), an after-school program for young girls living in low-income housing, Sears examines how the participants and the women who run the organization negotiate and construct black womanhood. By creating a social space for the girls and women of Sun Valley, the GEP becomes a site for multi-class and multi-generational women to contest what is black womanhood, with the girls' "politics of respect" coming into conflict with the women's "politics of respectability."

Sears situates identity work in the organizational context of the GEP; this approach provides an understanding of how the individual and the collective are part of the

identity work process. She offers the term "organizational power matrix" to reveal how organizational environment, culture, and structure can be domains of power in identity work. Setting the stage for her analysis, the author provides an overview of the emergence of the GEP in response to the sociopolitical and institutional environment of the early 1990s that produced "The Urban Girl" stereotype. Sears discusses the GEP's culture of empowerment that created a black-female-only space where the girls could express and create their cultural identity. Further, the structure of GEP allowed for multi-directional power relations between the girls and women. Negotiation of identity comes to the fore during the GEP's public dance performances. The girls express their femininity through hip-hop dance, seeing it as a part of the authentic black identity, and thus essential to their construction of black womanhood. This comes into conflict with the staff's Afrocentric womanist femininity that resists the hypersexualized and objectified black, female body. In the end, contestations of identity work in the organizational context create a space where the girls are able to imagine, construct, and negotiate their own version of black womanhood with that of the staff.

Sears' accessible writing style and captivating vignettes would fit well in undergraduate courses on race or gender and sexuality, while its theoretical contribution on identity work offers compelling discussions for graduate seminars. This book would also be a useful resource for activists and community organizers in understanding inherent power relations in any social justice project.

Helping Young Refugees and Immigrants Succeed: Public Policy, Aid, and Education, edited by **Gerhard Sonnert** and **Gerald Holton**. Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. 316pp. \$95.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780230621961.

The topic of immigration has generated many ingrained notions about the integration and outcome of migrants. *Helping Young Refugees and Immigrants Succeed: Public Policy, Aid, and Education* challenges these ideas

based on an analysis of past and current immigrants. Despite idealized notions of quick assimilation by young immigrants and refugees at the beginning of the twentieth century, Gerhard Sonnert and Gerald Holton, along with other scholars and advocacy groups, demonstrate that the earlier group faced issues similar to those faced by current immigrants. Education and a group's beliefs surrounding it are particularly important in the quicker assimilation of some groups, in addition to social class, and the context of reception, argue some of authors. Both in the past and in recent years, organizations and co-ethnic groups, as well as other minority groups, have been crucial to the integration of immigrants and refugees. Well-respected immigration scholars and professionals in humanitarian organizations pull from a rich history of experiences from previous young immigrants, develop excellent analyses of current immigrants and refugees, and reveal the underlying goals and specific actions of organizations aimed at assisting this population today.

The book, divided into six parts, starts by offering an historical framework for understanding the social context and public debate on the integration of young immigrants in the early twentieth century. Part II looks at specific aspects, practices, and social dynamics that enabled or hindered the success of many "Second Wave" young European immigrants. The third part focuses on current immigration to the United States and its interaction with race and ethnicity, politics and public policy, assimilation, the receiving country's views, identity issues, and legal status. The fourth part sheds light on the link between language, graduation rates, institutions, and young immigrants' educational outcomes. Part V reveals government and non-governmental organizations' view on assisting a very diverse immigrant population and defining immigrant success from an organizational perspective. The two chapters that make up the sixth and final part of the book discuss the changing contexts and actions of immigrants within their origin and host communities.

Displaying a brilliant balance between lessons learned from past immigrant experiences, deep analyses of current immigrant

groups, and the role of various factors affecting integration like education, culture, policies, and organizations, this is an excellent read for anyone interested in immigration and refugees and their integration into a host society. Immigration scholars in sociology, demography, anthropology, public policy, and human development, as well as educators, volunteers, and professionals in organizations, will find this text extremely enriching and thought-provoking.

Queens of Academe: Beauty Pageantry, Student Bodies, and College Life, by **Karen W. Tice**. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2012. 246pp. \$24.95 paper. ISBN: 9780199842803.

In *Queens of Academe*, Karen Tice delves into the complex and understudied world of collegiate beauty pageantry. Her interest, sparked by her mother's involvement in pageants as a young woman, is in tracking the history of college beauty pageants and how they have transformed over the years, as well as unraveling the issues of objectification and feminism in a changing world. Beauty pageants have remained popular on college campuses but in recent years their emphasis has shifted from *beauty* to *intellect*. Tice compiles interviews from contestants, judges, coordinators, and others involved in collegiate pageantry from various universities to understand the balance they create between the value of a woman's beauty and the value of her mind.

Tice introduces this issue by painting a picture from a pageant she attended ten years ago at Georgetown College in Kentucky. A pageant contestant dressed as a cowgirl lassooed a pig onstage as part of her talent portion, protesting the expectation that a woman must be ladylike and poised to be considered of value. Changing norms and expectations for women have brought about questions for the actors in pageantry. Throughout the book the questions arise: Should beauty pageants be wiped out completely or just the swimsuit portion? Even with focus shifting from physical beauty to inner beauty, are pageants still damaging to a woman's self worth? Are pageantry values and feminist ideas on opposite

ends of the spectrum, or is there some middle ground?

Tice also brings attention to matters of discrimination based on gender, class, race, and sexuality, and how different student groups are creating their own pageants in an attempt to eliminate this discrimination. These alternative pageants are centered around creating equality and empowering students rather than displaying beauty and talent. Pageants in historically black colleges and universities are highlighted in Chapter Five. The contestant winners are expected to be involved in campus organizations and politics and, most importantly, promote African heritage and culture in the community.

From topics of gender, sexuality, race, class, religion, media, and tradition, the ground of the beauty pageant culture is well covered. Tice concludes by posing a challenge to uncover the cultural practices that are disempowering women and minorities, whether it be the beauty pageant culture or something else. This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the pageantry phenomenon and issues of feminism and gender norms.

Cop Watch: Spectators, Social Media, and Police Reform, by **Hans Toch**. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2012. 188pp. \$49.95 cloth. ISBN: 9781433811197.

In *Cop Watch*, Hans Toch uses a series of historical events to document confrontations between police officers, citizens, and the media in three American cities in order to explore how these confrontations have led to various reactions and police reforms. He is particularly concerned with the actions and responses of the spectators of these confrontations, which he calls "the chorus."

Toch refers to the first city that he deals with as "West Coast City." He utilizes interviews with police officers to detail the contentious relationship between officers and the African American community in West Coast City from 1967 to 1971, explaining the chorus' concerns about unfairness of police interventions and police brutality, and the resistant reaction of the West Coast City police officers to reforms aimed at

encouraging community policing. Toch continues his work by detailing events which took place in Seattle from 2010 to 2011 in an effort to explain how technological advancements, like cell-phone video cameras and internet blogging, have expanded the chorus of spectators beyond those immediately present at the time of an altercation between officers and citizens. He explains how these advancements have influenced modern policing and encouraged continued reforms in policing toward more community-oriented policing. Finally, Toch turns to New York City in order to discuss the importance of stop-and-frisk policies for police/community relations. He discusses seminal Supreme Court decisions relating to the constitutionality of stop-and-frisk, as well as the consequences these decisions have had on racial profiling and citizen trust in police officers in general.

This book should interest anyone interested in relations between police officers and regular citizens, and anyone concerned with the media's impact on the public's perceptions of police conduct. The book should also appeal to those interested in historical accounts of police behavior and the changes in policing policies.

Confronting Homelessness: Poverty, Politics, and the Failure of Social Policy, by **David Wagner**, with Jennifer Barton Gilman. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2012. 207pp. \$55.00 cloth. ISBN: 9781588268235.

In his book *Confronting Homelessness*, David Wagner tackles the issue of today's "new" homelessness by highlighting homelessness history in the United States and exploring the population's perceptions of homeless individuals. Most important, he examines the social constructionist theory, which argues that an issue is only as pressing as society perceives it to be. In Chapters One and Two, Wagner delves into the rise and fall of the awareness of homelessness as a critical issue in society. Unfortunately, homelessness has been on the back burner for a while now. In fact, the presidential election of 1988 was the last campaign when the candidates mentioned homelessness as an important issue.

Wagner gives us a short history of homelessness in the United States dating back to the post-Civil War era in Chapter Three, and then dedicates the next four chapters to the most recent homelessness problem starting in 1979 to the present. Chapter Four covers the beginning of the new homelessness era (1979–1982), when the homeless population expanded beyond the stereotypical single male. Women and families were being added into this mix and this was a cause for public concern. Reagan's Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 was passed, resulting in deep cuts to social services taxes. Meanwhile, homelessness advocates were fighting for more shelters and services for the homeless. Chapter Five (1983–1988) explains the social constructionist theory further by describing several different "frames" or perspectives—both positive and negative—through which homelessness can be viewed. Wagner also mentions "Hands Across America," a national charitable campaign that started in 1984, and the passing of the Stewart B. McKinney Homelessness Assistance Act in 1987, which provided aid to the homeless. But these were only minor victories for homelessness advocates.

In Chapter Six, Wagner describes the beginning of the criminalization of the homeless and the idea of compassion fatigue from 1989 to 1993. In an attempt to rid the community of the homeless population, cities started to enact laws against the homeless, prohibiting them from sleeping in the park, sitting with their belongings in public, and many others. Chapter Seven depicts the homelessness problem from 1994 to the present. Wagner illustrates the debate of acceptance versus social change. In the past 20 years, coverage of homelessness in the media and the news has been low on the radar and social movements are rare, leaving us to question if the United States is choosing to ignore the problem rather than to fix it.

Confronting Homelessness not only does a thorough job of outlining the history of homelessness in the United States, but also brings attention to the minimal progress the United States has made in addressing this issue, and raises essential questions about where we go from here. This book would be a great addition to an

undergraduate or graduate class dealing with issues of homelessness.

Getting Used to the Quiet: Immigrant Adolescents' Journey to Belonging in New Brunswick, Canada, by **Stacey Wilson-Forsberg**. Montreal, CAN: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2012. 233pp. \$29.95 paper. ISBN: 9780773540002.

Getting Used to the Quiet focuses on the adaptation and integration process that immigrant adolescents in New Brunswick, Canada experience. While adult immigrants mainly seek economic integration, adolescents' adaptation seems to be more dependent on social integration, such as the challenge of making friends despite the language barriers, the search for adult role models, and the need to embrace a new culture without losing their own heritage and cultural identity.

The main research question that Stacey Wilson-Forsberg investigates is how the actions of engaged citizens of a community factor into immigrant adolescents' sense of belonging. In fact, when the host community lacks pre-existing ethnic networks, the interactions with local residents play a fundamental role in forming immigrants' identity as part of that community.

A total of eighty-five voluntary participants, recruited through a purposive sample, participated in the study. Through in-depth interviews and focus groups, the author shows how the immigrant adolescents gradually become involved and gained membership in the receiving communities by making connections with peers and adults, with a particular focus on the beneficial effect of social networks and informal relations as channels to develop a lasting sense of belonging.

The core of the book presents established theoretical frameworks and immigrant adolescents' personal experiences. The interviews are very detailed, and help the reader to understand that the process of developing a sense of belonging involves many challenges and, despite some common points, every person goes through a unique experience.

The well-structured research design, along with a delightful narrative style,

makes this book useful and interesting for all social science scholars, policy makers, social science students at both graduate and undergraduate levels, and for the general public as well.

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