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## Take Note

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## TAKE NOTE

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*Interrogating Race and Racism*, edited by **Vijay Agnew**. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press, 2007. 400pp. \$35.00 paper. ISBN: 9780802093561.

*Interrogating Race and Racism* is a collection of essays dealing with racism in new and nuanced ways in Canada. The editor selected works that inform current debates on race and racism as well as works that outline how those debates have changed since the 1960s. In particular, the editor and her collaborators examine how people of color respond to and articulate their subordinate status, how cultural intolerance has replaced biological hierarchies as forms of racism, and, finally, how cultural intolerance reifies who is included and who is not in the nation-state. The book tackles these themes by focusing on how race and racism affects immigration policy, work-place conditions, national identity, and citizenship.

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*Marcel Mauss: The Manual of Ethnography*, edited by **N.J. Allen**. New York, NY: Berghahn Books, 2007. 248pp. \$80.00 cloth. ISBN: 9781845453213.

This book is the first English translation of Marcel Mauss's lectures on ethnographic approaches to the study of social facts. The book emphasizes a synthetic approach to the study of the social classification that pays attention to both tribal populations and industrialized societies. In anthropology this is already a classic, but students of sociology should also find this book useful as an extension to the use of observational method to develop social typologies.

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*The Politics, Economics, and Culture of Mexican-U.S. Migration: Both Sides of the Border*, edited by **Edward Ashbee, Helene Balslev Clausen** and **Carl Pedersen**. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007. 323pp. \$79.95 cloth. ISBN: 9781403984944.

This edited volume is a multidisciplinary collection of essays that focus on a multitude of

issues around Mexican-U.S. migration. Contributors come from cultural studies, media studies, political science, history, economics, and law. The essays focus on a wide range of issues related to migration, including, for example, the economic and social impact of economic integration between the U.S. and Mexico, the representation of Mexican immigrants in U.S. newspapers, and the impact of immigration on the U.S. political process. This collection of essays should be of interest to a wide range of students and scholars from various disciplines interested in the issue of Mexican-U.S. migration.

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*Step By Step: Everyday Walks in a French Urban Housing Project*, by **Jean-François Augoyard**. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2007. 296pp. \$22.50 paper. ISBN: 9780816645916.

This book, originally published by Augoyard in 1979, looks at everyday social life in a planned immigrant suburb in France. As the author points out—and as the riots that took place in France in 2005 seem to confirm—there is a disparity between what the planned, functionalist communities were supposed to accomplish and the actual realities that the mostly immigrant inhabitants experience. The book is based on in-depth interviews with the inhabitants of l'Arlequin, which is a "new town" outside of Grenoble, France. Augoyard gives the reader a useful look at the social life of the residents of l'Arlequin, and how the specific built environment defines collective conceptions for these immigrants living in the outskirts of a major French city.

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*From all Points: America's Immigrant West, 1870-1952*, by **Elliot Robert Barkan**. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2007. 598pp. \$39.95 cloth. ISBN: 9780253348517.

Elliot Robert Barkan's account of the contribution of all peoples of color and whites in the West from 1870 to 1952 is a rich mosaic of stories of the hard work of America's immi-

grants in the West. The author does not single out a group, but instead shows the interconnectedness between all immigrants and natives alike. This work is a significant contribution to America's collective story in which the marginalized have been so casually omitted.

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*Media/Queered: Visibility and its Discontents*, edited by **Kevin G. Barnhurst**. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2007. 298pp. \$32.95 paper. ISBN: 9780820495323.

In this edited volume, Kevin Barnhurst brings together a collection of scholars to reflect upon the growing visibility of gays and lesbians in the media. This volume bridges media studies with queer theory and deals with a variety of topics such as gay parenting on television, queer cyberspace, and gay and lesbian marketing. Interspersed between the different sections are interludes by media practitioners. This book should be included in media courses dealing with queer issues.

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*Cool Memories V*, by **Jean Baudrillard**. Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2007. 114pp. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 9780745636603.

The late Baudrillard's volume continues to highlight his discursive method of aphorism to promote distance between himself and his thoughts. Certain aphorisms are as caustic as they are thought provoking. This volume should be of interest to those concerned with humanistic social theory and the contradictions of post modernity.

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*The Decline of the Death Penalty and the Discovery of Innocence*, by **Frank R. Baumgartner, Suzanna L. De Boef** and **Amber E. Boydston**. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2008. 292pp. \$23.99 paper. ISBN: 9780521715249.

Over the past two decades, the debate over the death penalty has changed dramatically in the United States. Support for the death penalty and the number of executions have significantly decreased during this period. This book attempts to understand how the debate has changed and what effect this has had on

public opinion and public policy. This book will be a valuable addition to courses in criminology, public policy, and public opinion.

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*Women and Nation-Building*, by **Cheryl Benard, Seth G. Jones, Olga Oliker, Cathryn Quantic Thurston, Brooke K. Stearns**, and **Kristen Cordell**. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2008. 225pp. \$31.50 paper. ISBN: 9780833043115.

This book looks at post-conflict nation-building and the ways that the participation of women have an effect on the development of the state and society. Specifically, this study looks closely at the case of Afghanistan and observes how gender has played a role since the beginning of redevelopment in this country in the post-conflict era. According to the authors, women's inclusion in the nation-building process has been a central part of Afghanistan's development plan, and this logic has an effect on the outcome of the newly forming nation. The book also includes specific policy recommendations for future studies.

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*Social Problems*, by **Joel Best**. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company, 2008. 369pp. \$37.50 paper. ISBN: 9780393928778.

In this textbook, Best provides students with an effective and coherent approach to understanding social problems in a sociological perspective. Best's approach explains how different social actors—such as activists, the media, and “experts”—frame social problems, and explains how and why certain groups' claims are more likely to be heard and accepted by the public. Aside from the theoretical discussion of social problems, Best makes the ideas concrete by providing specific historical examples and case studies that ground the concepts in reality and make it easy for students to understand.

*Agency and Causation in the Human Sciences*, edited by **Francesca Castellani** and **Josef Quitterer**. Paterborn, DE: Mentis, 2007. 231pp. \$46.00 paper. ISBN: 9783897855731.

This edited volume seeks to lay out, but not so much resolve, two seemingly incompatible approaches to a fundamental question of social action. How should we explain it? Agency (or agent causality) places the burden of intentionality onto social actors in explaining social action, while naturalistic philosophers argue that sociological understandings of reason should be interpreted as normal causes of actions. This volume should be of interest to sociological theorists of social action.

*The Fifth Dimension: An After-School Program Built on Diversity*, by **Michael Cole** and **The Distributed Literacy Consortium**. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006. 248pp. \$29.95 cloth. ISBN: 9780871540843.

This book is an evaluation of an innovative after-school program established in the 1980s. The fifth dimension is a series of after-school programs based on a partnership between community after-school programs with universities and colleges in the local area. The inclusion of colleges in the program allows students to connect classroom learning with real world experience. Participation in the program improved both cognitive and academic skills in children who attended the program regularly. For undergraduate students, participation in the program changed their understanding and approach to teaching.

*Iranian Immigrants in Los Angeles: The Role of Networks and Economic Integration*, by **Claudia Der-Martirosian**. New York, NY: LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2008. 164pp. \$60.00 cloth. ISBN: 1593322402.

This book examines the economic integration of Iranian immigrants by focusing on the role of immigrant network ties. Drawing on the theory of social capital and social embeddedness, Der-Martirosian tests the effects of economic and non-economic embeddedness, as well as family versus non-family ties, for the

labor market experiences of a professional/entrepreneurial immigrant group. She employs survey data of 556 Iranian male heads of households in Los Angeles to examine the role of social networks in the early and later phases of settlement. She found that during the early settlement phase, networks sped up the initial job search process; however, these jobs often resulted in a loss of occupational status. In the later settlement phase, Der-Martirosian finds that being embedded in economic networks resulted in higher earnings and more prestigious jobs. Overall, economic embeddedness directly affects economic integration whereas non-economic ties had no effect. The author concludes by suggesting that future studies also distinguish between economic and non-economic embeddedness in their examination of economic outcomes.

*The McDonaldization of Social Work*, by **Donna Dustin**. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2007. 189pp. \$99.95 cloth. ISBN: 9780754646396.

In this book Dustin applies Ritzer's "McDonaldization" thesis to the implementation of "care management" in the field of social work. Taking the UK as her case study, Dustin looks at how care management is used as a way to increase efficiency in the practice of social work. However, unlike businesses that produce material goods through these methods of efficiency, the ethical dilemmas are more pronounced in the application of care management to social work—where the outcome is not always something that can be easily or simply measured. This book questions whether treating clients of a service as "customers" is a useful or ultimately effective practice in social work.

*Social Theory for Old and New Modernities: Essays on Society and Culture, 1976–2005*, by **Franco Ferrarotti**, edited by **E. Doyle McCarthy**. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2007. 373pp. \$90.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780739115091.

In this edited collection of Ferrarotti's work—who is considered the founder of postwar Italian sociology—McCarthy provides the reader

with a selection of essays in the attempt to bring back Ferrarotti's ideas into the vanguard of modern sociology. The collection has writings on such important topics as theory and ethnography, immigration, religion and secularization, and modernity, among others, and is relevant to current sociological and political debates. An introduction by Maria Maciotti gives a brief history of Ferrarotti's life and situates his intellectual work into his multiple roles of politician, academic, and social scientist.

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*Human Cloning in the Media: From Science Fiction to Science Practice*, by **Joan Haran, Jenny Kitzinger, Maureen McNeil** and **Kate O'Riordan**. New York, NY: Routledge, 2007. 256pp. \$150.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780415422369.

Over the past decade, the issue of human cloning has gained a lot of media attention around the globe. This book explores the development of the issue and how it has been approached in the media primarily in the UK between 1996 and 2007, but with related analysis of the United States and South Korea. The authors examine the discourses surrounding this issue, the image of the cloning scientist in the media, and the position of publics in the cloning issue.

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*Reification: A New Look at an Old Idea*, edited by **Martin Jay**. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2008. 168pp. \$29.95 cloth. ISBN: 9780195320466.

This book, based on a 2005 Tanner Lecture series at UC Berkeley by Axel Honneth, brings back Georg Lukács early twentieth century idea of reification—the changing of specific historical processes into ahistorical notions and of conceptualizing social actions as a sort of normalized “human nature” that requires no serious reflection. In addition to Honneth's attempt to bring back the idea of dereification into Marxian scholarship, in this book three distinguished scholars—Judith Butler, Raymond Geuss and Jonathan Lear—offer their own responses and critique to Honneth's central argument about dereification. In the conclusion to the book, Honneth responds to these criticisms and offers a defense of his own position.

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*Officially Hispanic: Classification Policy and Identity*, by **Jose Enrique Idler**. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007. 241pp. \$80.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780739119693.

Jose Enrique Idler examines the utility of the term Hispanic or Latino in public policy and identity formation. He argues that the term Hispanic and/or Latino is much too indeterminate to provide useful information about a group that is not as cohesive as the government finds it, or indicative of the traits ascribed to it. The author compares the Hispanic/Latino experience to African Americans and concludes that the two groups are too different to be treated by a singular set of policies. This book offers insight into a question often taken for granted, but one that has serious repercussions for both policy makers and researchers.

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*Global Perspectives on Gender Equality: Reversing the Gaze*, edited by **Naila Kabeer, Agneta Stark** and **Edda Magnus**. New York, NY: Routledge, 2008. 312pp. \$95.00 cloth. ISBN: 0415963494.

A common criticism in the global development literature is that the important lessons to be learned about development privilege the experiences of the global North over those of the global South. This edited volume presents an alternative viewpoint by “reversing the gaze.” The authors invited scholars from a number of developing nations to comment on the issue of gender equality in two Nordic countries—Norway and Sweden. In doing so, the commentators reflect on what they see as the lessons to be learned (or, alternatively, the lessons to be avoided) for their own countries.

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*Failing Grades: The Quest for Equity in America's Schools, 2nd Edition*, by **H. Roy Kaplan**. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007. 240pp. \$29.95 paper. ISBN: 9781578866496.

Kaplan has over 15 years of experience working with teachers, administrators, and students to reduce tension and conflict in America's schools. This book focuses on the causes of racial, sexual, and violent conflict between

students and offers solutions for what can be done to resolve these issues in school. Using actual experiences from conference and workshop attendees, Kaplan provides illustrative insights into the everyday experiences that students confront on a daily basis. Kaplan contends that teaching students to be respectful and responsible human beings is just as important as math and reading in preparing students to live successful lives.

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*Selective Remembrances: Archaeology in the Construction, Commemoration, and Consecration of National Pasts*, edited by **Philip L. Kohl, Mara Kozelsky, and Nachman Ben-Yehuda**. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2008. 384pp. \$26.00 paper. ISBN: 9780226450599.

In this edited volume, the authors look at the question of how newly established or recreated nation-states validate their political existence and manufacture a shared collective history for the inhabitants of these states. The authors argue that the creation of a shared history is often done through the field of archeology, which can engender feelings of nationalism and “create” a specific national past. The essays in this book specifically look at the cases of Russia, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, and India among others to make the case that archaeology has played an important role in the construction of national identity in newly formed nation-states.

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*The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community*, by **Pei-te Lien, M. Margaret Conway and Janelle Wong**. New York, NY: Routledge, 2004. 266pp. \$35.95 paper. ISBN: 0415934648.

Lien, Conway, and Wong provide a framework for the political participation of Asian Americans in the United States. Their findings in the first national multi-lingual and multi-ethnic survey of Asian Americans debunk many of the preconceptions the mainstream holds about Asian Americans. Not only does this book contribute to our understanding of Asian Americans, it is also a significant contribution to the fields of minority politics and American politics because of its detailed look at identity

formation, partisanship, and political participation.

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*Digitizing Race: Visual Cultures of the Internet*, by **Lisa Nakamura**. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2008. 296pp. \$19.50 paper. ISBN: 9780816646135.

The author uses a visual culture approach to examine how Internet users continue to reify gendered and racialized identities through digital images and create communities online. Analyzing AOL Instant Messenger buddy icons, pregnant women’s use of avatars on Internet bulletin boards, and joke sites, this study examines how Internet users rearticulate and contest racialized and gendered identities and the aesthetic norms usually associated with technology. It also discusses how the media portrays the Internet and technology interfaces in films like *Minority Report*, *Gattaca*, and *The Matrix* as a means of surveillance and how they racialize bodies as black and white, with Asian Americans as a liminal space between the two. These issues address the relationship between the production and consumption of technology, specifically who is a subject or object of Internet usage, and how this perpetuates or challenges existing social inequalities.

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*Human Genes and Neoliberal Governance: A Foucauldian Critique*, by **Antoinette Rouvroy**. New York, NY: Routledge, 2008. 320pp. \$140.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780415444330.

Rouvroy argues that there is a parallel between the ascendancy of neoliberal ideology and the recent rise of genetic explanations about human action that emphasize individual factors as opposed to social, economic, and political factors. She argues that the increase of genetic arguments that focus on individualism has had an effect on support for welfare states, and on health and life insurance. Rouvroy claims that modern genetics and neoliberal ideology are both responsible for the rise of individualistic ideology that “proves” that social and economic inequalities are “natural” and that attempts to alleviate these inequalities are beyond the capacity of the state.

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*The Future of Reputation: Gossip, Rumor, and Privacy on the Internet*, by **Daniel J. Solove**. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2007. 256pp. \$24.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780300124989.

The Internet is a powerful and useful tool, which has revolutionized our ability to get information quickly and efficiently. However, according to Daniel J. Solove, this easy ability to get, and provide, information also has a dark side. Solove points out that each one of us has a permanent digital record that is available for millions of people to view, and that these records may contain inaccuracies or outright false statements. Solove argues that this unrestricted flow of information may dampen our ability to lead free and unhindered lives, and that we might need to collectively consider the balance between privacy and free speech in the new digital world.

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*Last Words and the Death Penalty: Voices of the Condemned and their Co-Victims*, by **Scott Vollum**. New York, NY: LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2008. 304pp. \$75.00 cloth. ISBN: 9781593322649.

The death penalty remains an important and hotly contested issue in the United States. Activists, policy makers, and the media all have an important voice in the debate. This book adds two important voices that are not currently heard—convicted death-row inmates and the victim's survivors. This study uses inmates' final statements and survivors' statements to the press across 321 executions in Texas between 1982 and 2004. This allows the author to construct "pseudo-dialogues" between these two marginalized groups in the death penalty debate in order to understand the attitudes and emotions surrounding the execution event.

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*Inside the Digital Revolution: Policing and Changing Communication with the Public*, by **Bridgette Wessels**. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2007. 210pp. \$99.95 cloth. ISBN: 9780754670872.

This book addresses the relationship between technology and social service provision. Specifically, this book examines technological

innovation within the London Metropolitan Police Service through ethnographic research methods. Wessels also provides policy recommendations in these four forms: cultural dimensions of innovation, key actors in the innovation process, transformational space in the innovation process, and the needs of the users.

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*Language and Governance*, edited by **Colin H. Williams**. Cardiff, UK: University of Wales Press, 2007. 534pp. \$35.00 paper. ISBN: 9780708321126.

This book addresses language policies in Europe and Canada. The volume brings together scholars and political advisors into this issue. Language policies are highlighted to reveal the underlying tension between bilingualism and pluralism. Scholars interested in political sociology, immigration, and political pluralism should take note of this volume.

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*Schools and the Equal Opportunity Problem*, edited by **Ludger Woessmann** and **Paul E. Peterson**. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2007. 327pp. \$35.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780262232579.

The contributors of this edited volume take on current education research and argue that large differential spending on poor and disadvantaged students—contrary to many current policies—may still not bring about equality in educational results. The authors use economic tools to look at the outcomes of particular efforts to solve the problem of equal opportunity in education in a number of Western countries—the United States, Britain, Germany, Sweden, and Italy. The evidence provided raise doubts about the efficacy of current school policies in changing the opportunity structure and looks at issues such as tracking, the distribution of outcomes, the public/private school debate, and the link between education and the income of parents.

*Chain Migration Explained: The Power of the Immigration Multiplier*, by **Bin Yu**. New York, NY: LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2008. 283pp. \$75.00 cloth. ISBN: 9781593322359.

This book focuses on the topic of chain migration between naturalized immigrants and their family members in the United States. Yu begins by reviewing past research that has sought to calculate the Immigration Multiplier effect of immigrants and their sponsored fam-

ily members. Yu then develops a new method for calculating the multiplicative impact of chain migration which he calls Yu's Complete Chain Migration Model. This new method is an improvement over past models because it incorporates two different effects: the Immigration Multiplier effect of immigrant fertility and the Immigration Multiplier effect of immigrant sponsorship. This book should be of interest to demographers and students of immigration studies.