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Review of Immigration and Integration in Urban Communities: Renegotiating the City, ed. Lisa Hanley, Blair Ruble, and Allison Garland

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and globalization are absent. Instead, Goldman moves from an appropriate critique of big-project redevelopment – “silver bullets” in local parlance – to a rhapsody about the power of community gardens, historic preservation, spontaneous redevelopment, and other grassroots initiatives. All of these things have made a positive impact on the city, but Goldman generally ignores the potential of developments in health care, high technology, and higher education to create a new era of prosperity. The power of place is important, as he argues, but so is a city’s place in relation to the economic power of the age.

Likewise, Goldman has no theoretical interest in the dysfunction of local politics. All the failures of recent Mayors were apparently personal ones. Thus, there is no prescription for a fundamental remedy to a political culture which most Buffalonians would agree has failed. Goldman is interested in citizenship but its practice doesn’t seem to include the ballot box.

Otherwise, a reader familiar with Buffalo and its history will be unnerved by the frequency with which Goldman misspells names and mangles chronologies. For academic and intellectual rigor more generally, the two earlier books are to be preferred. Yet City on the Edge contains material that the reader is unlikely to find elsewhere, on the flowering of the arts in Buffalo and the more recent neighborhood rennaissance.

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Hanley, Lisa, Blair Ruble, and Allison Garland (eds).
Immigration and Integration in Urban Communities: Renegotiating the City.
336 pp.

This book challenges the prevailing, counterpoising paradigms of immigration studies and integration strategies – multiculturalism and assimilationism – by noting that “host communities are not as static and migrants are not as passive” as these positions would suggest (p. 2). Instead, communities and migrants are constantly evolving, reacting and adapting to each other. The book explores these negotiations in the physical realm of cities, questioning notions of citizenship and membership in society. In the introduction, Ruble, Hanley, and Garland advocate for nuanced approaches that view “societies as more variable, migrants as more proactive, and cities as more meaningful” (p. 3). They stress the global scale and increasing pace of migration around the world, and the determinate role of cities as units of analysis and settings for integration. The book’s chapters cut across disciplines, with lessons for planning from anthropology, law, political science, and geography. They are illustrative snapshots that “alert the reader to today’s profound recalibration of urban life” (p. 13).

The book is divided in two parts, the first being the Renegotiation of Urban Space, while the second addresses the Renegotiation of Urban Citizenship. Part I begins with
Michael Jones-Correa discussing new trends of spatial distribution of migrants in the United States and their implications for governments and communities, demonstrating through a case study in Washington D.C. that suburbanization of immigration lends itself to different dynamics of racial sorting, ethnic organization, and government response than those assumed in the past. Rhacel Salazar Parreñas analyzes the placelessness and exclusion of Filipina domestic migrants in Rome and Los Angeles. These phenomena are explored in both the private sphere of the workplace and the public sphere of these two cities, revealing the centrality of race and class in women’s migratory experiences. At the rarely-explored micro scale of household and other everyday spaces, Serin Houston and Richard Wright uncover the struggles of ethnic mixing in Seattle. Particularly revealing is their consideration of household “as a geographic scale, a collectivity, and a set of practices, rather than just a mark of location and residence” (p. 74). The approach opens up a new arena of research that focuses attention on relationships between individuals for the study of displacement and belonging. Chantal Saint-Blancat discusses the multifaceted challenges of the construction of mosques and the particular demands and public space visibility strategies on the part of young Muslims in Europe. The author discusses how mosques crystallize a new way of social interactions in public space and explains that, depending on context, factors such as misunderstandings, lack of communication, and political ambiguity slow down the institutionalization of Islam in European public space. Next, and drawing on the experience of the Congolese diaspora in Johannesburg, AbdouMaliq Simone argues that life in Africa revolves around migration and that there is an inextricable and dynamic relationship between urbanization and migration. He captures phenomena that are largely taking place outside the purview of the state, challenging conventional paradigms of urban governance and planning.

Part II also has five chapters. Caroline Brettel discusses migrant incorporation in cities and suburbs in the context of the Dallas-Fort Worth emerging gateway region, giving continuation to issues explored by Jones-Correa. David Ley’s portrayal of the controversies regarding big (“monster”) houses in Vancouver, which pitched wealthy Asian migrants against local preservationists, reveals less-discussed aspects of the challenges of multicultural planning. Jason Pribilsky’s examination of health care among Ecuadorians in Rockland County, New York, highlights how transnational dynamics subvert conventional spatial and temporal dimensions of public health practices. Barbara Schmitter Heisler’s comparison of immigration policies in Stuttgart and Munich vindicates the potential of cities, even within strong nation-state regulatory systems, to advance migrant-friendly policies and programs. The book closes with Dickson Eyoh’s ambitious piece on urban citizenship and the disenfranchisement of migrants in Africa over three periods of history – the colonial era; the postcolonial era until the 1980s; and the post-1980 period.

This volume excelled at the ultimate classroom-applicability test: it was used as required reading for a course on planning and migration which I taught in Darmstadt, Germany, in May 2009, for an audience of master of planning students representing twenty four different nationalities. Because of the variety of case studies offered, most students could find both familiar and new migratory and planning conditions from which to relate and learn. The book also highlighted to them the importance of context sensitivity for appropriate urban analysis and proposal making.
It is difficult to disentangle the development of the twentieth-century city from that of film. Perceptions of the city were powerfully shaped by and mediated through film, and throughout its history, film has been profoundly influenced by the shifting nature of urban spaces and urban experiences. Moreover, changes in the moviegoing experience have reflected and shaped changes in cityscapes (e.g. the shift from stand-alone, neighbourhood or downtown cinemas to suburban multiplexes). In *Now Playing: Early Moviegoing and the Regulation of Fun*, Paul S. Moore examines this relationship with a detailed discussion of the development of cinemas and the moviegoing experience in early-Twentieth Century Toronto.

Moore demonstrates how local practices of moviegoing in Toronto played a key role in the development of moviegoing as a mass practice. “Film,” he argues, “had first to be integrated into the culture of particular cities to become a national or global practice” (2). Moore examines the role of municipal and provincial regulation (from fire-safety regulations to the creation of formalized censorship), showmanship (the promotional and other practices of the theatre owners), and promotion and journalism (both in terms of advertising in newspapers and the related development of journalistic interest in film and moviegoing) in transforming moviegoing into a mass practice in the Toronto of the period. Moore’s extensive archival research and attention to detail effectively illustrate his claims, in the process revealing fascinating local particularities to early moviegoing in Toronto, such as the surprising role of fire-safety regulations (and the legitimate fear of fire in public spaces), for example, in formalizing and legitimating moviegoing. If at times lacking in memorable anecdotes and a bit bogged down in minutiae, *Now Playing* provides a thorough discussion of a fascinating topic, and will be invaluable to all readers interested in early moviegoing or Toronto during this period.

It is probably of less value, however, to urban studies scholars. Despite Moore’s frequent references to the essential role of urban cultures in the transformation of moviegoing into a mass practice, particularly in the introduction, that is not really the focus of the book. Rarely does Moore focus on how the city as such, or practices and experiences particular to cities, shaped the practice of moviegoing, nor does the book have much to say about the role of moviegoing in the development of the modern city. Moreover, although he does cite some of the obvious contemporary (more or less) scholars on the modern city (e.g. Simmel, and Wirth and others in the Chicago School),