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Review of *Cracks in the Pavement: Social Change and Resilience in Poor Neighborhoods*. Martin Sdnchez-Jankowski. Reviewed by James Midgley.

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roles that has received little academic attention. The book is informative and useful to academics and their students engaged in the study and formation of family theory and social policy, as well as for youth agencies seeking to increase support for the children they serve.

Will Rainford, Boise State University

Martín Sánchez-Jankowski, *Cracks in the Pavement: Social Change and Resilience in Poor Neighborhoods*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2008. \$24.95 papercover.

Since its early years in the 19th-century, the social work profession has had a strong commitment to addressing the problems of poor, urban communities and it has historically drawn on the insights of sociologists to provide theoretical frameworks to inform and inspire community interventions. The work of the Chicago school of urban sociologists, ethnographic studies of urban ethnic neighborhoods, analyses of community networks and more recently the notion of social capital have all informed community practice. However, as is well-known, much community practice has been based on a deficit model which emphasizes the problems and challenges facing urban communities. This is reflected the historical dominance of a pathology-focused social disorganization approach in urban sociology which has only recently been challenged by a strengths-based model that recognizes the resilience and capabilities of low income communities.

Sanchez-Jankowski's book makes a major contribution towards understanding the strengths of poor communities and particularly ethnic minority communities in the United States. It will be welcomed by social workers and community practitioners who are increasingly persuaded that the deficit approach fails to capture the complexity of community relationships and the potential of poor people to cooperate and work for the benefit of their localities. The book is based on a series of in-depth ethnographic studies of poor communities in Los Angeles and New York over a ten year period. Unlike many other community ethnographic studies, which have usually been based on household interviews, the author

focused on local community institutions or what he calls "establishments" which form the center of community life. These are public housing projects, local neighborhood grocery stores, barber shops and hair salons, gangs and high schools. In addition to direct observation, loosely structured informal interviews as well as structured interviews were undertaken. Another innovative approach was the length of the study and the author's wish to understand how local people have adapted to social change in the context of these institutions over the years.

Jankowski's book makes a major contribution to social science understanding of the way poor people in low income communities lead their lives, cooperate with each other and adapt to change. While the author rejects the dominant social disorganization paradigm which has informed sociological community studies for many years, he does not present a romanticized image of poor communities and instead offers a nuanced interpretation which recognizes the debilitating effects of poverty but balances this against the resilience, striving and opportunity maximizing efforts of poor people. The author's extensive use of theory and summary of the major perspectives in American urban sociology will be particularly helpful to students and practitioners. His rich ethnographic account and insights will be equally valuable. The book is an important addition to the literature and deserves to be widely read.

James Midgley, University of California, Berkeley

James Midgley and Kwong-Leung Tang (Eds.), *Social Security, the Economy and Development*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. \$85.00 hardcover.

Over the past several decades aging populations have become an increasing source of concern for social security systems in industrial nations. Early retirement provisions and generous old age and disability pensions have contributed to more people receiving benefits, accompanied by declining birth rates and a diminishing proportion of younger workers. Thus, there are fewer contributors to support benefits being