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### *Not Working: Latina Immigrants, Low-wage Jobs and the Failure of Welfare Reform.* Alejandra Marchevsky and Jeanne Theorharis.

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is particularly timely as immigrants become more visible as they move to less traditional U.S. regions to find work and the immigration debate rages. As part of a larger MDRC study of welfare reform, Marchevsky interviewed a number of Latina immigrants who received aid for themselves and their children. A unique contribution of this ethnography is that Marchevsky and Theoharis provide a historical and structural context. Of particular interest is the detailed discussion of the development of the City of Long Beach, its failing economy, given the reliance on the military presence, and the effect on the poor. This city's history led to the response to welfare use and shaped the experiences of the profiled immigrant welfare recipients. A further strength of the book is the critical analysis in the final chapter of previous social science research used to shape the public consensus of the success of welfare reform, represented by the MDRC Urban Change Project. While the voices of the immigrant women could have been more liberally interspersed throughout the discussion, overall this book is a rewarding and important read for those interested in the experiences of immigrants in the United States and their struggles with poverty and the welfare system.

*Allison de Marco, The Pennsylvania State University*

Rik Pinxten and Ellen Preckler, *Racism in Metropolitan Areas*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2006. \$70.00 hardcover, \$22.50 papercover.

Violence and unrest that stem from racism, such as the Paris riots of 2005, are growing concerns. In Europe, social and economic inequities are grossly apparent in urban areas and electoral support for far-right nationalist parties is increasing in several affluent countries. The clash of cultures between old and new residents, natives and foreigners, has resulted in the exclusion of people and customs that are seen as too different. Dialogue that promotes an understanding of exclusion, as

during conferences and workshops, is vital to crafting solutions. *Racism in Metropolitan Areas* makes an outstanding contribution to the dialogue.

The book presents a selection of papers from an eponymous conference held in Ghent, Belgium in 2001. Pinxten and Preckler explain that the intent of the conference was to investigate how urban life facilitates racism and exclusion in ways that differ from the racism of the past. The editors focus on Europe, with some content on India and Singapore, and to a lesser extent, the United States. It is noteworthy that there are contributors from diverse professions with unique perspectives—academics, journalists, politicians, and a theater director—though scholars in anthropology comprise the majority of the authors.

The material covers an array of topics and is organized into “Disempowering through Racism” and “Empowering to Combat Racism.” Youth unemployment, recent conflicts in British cities, tolerance in Denmark, and casteism versus racism in India are some of the subjects examined as part of understanding disempowerment. Anti-racism legislation, community education, artistic expression, and intercultural events are some of the ideas described for empowerment.

The relevance to either disempowerment or empowerment was not clear for some of the chapters. This reflects a weakness in the organization of the book rather than the unsuitability of the actual material. For example, a discussion on the importance of media savvy seems better suited to the section on empowerment, while a case study on the nationalist party of Austria may be more appropriate for disempowerment. Also, a series of chapters are meant to present a discussion on the Indian caste system, but it lacks the cohesion needed for a dialogue between the authors. A highlight of the collection is the final chapter, which is engaging and thought-provoking. It provides a holistic reflection on the themes of the book and raises questions about the globalizing corporate culture that creates similarities across nations. By emphasizing commonalities and the assets that migrants bring to Europe, models of coexistence can prevail.

*Racism in Metropolitan Areas* is a complex and fascinating book. However, there are passages of text so laden with jargon

that the style of writing could present a barrier to appreciating the rich content. As with any edited collection, viewpoints that would have enhanced the understanding of racism were omitted. One author calls them "missing voices." These are the voices from the peoples who are targets of racism and from scholars in the home countries of the migrants to Europe. Even with these limitations, this work offers sophisticated analyses for readers with a specialized interest in culture, politics, and racism.

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Robert P. Stoker and Laura A. Wilson, *When Work is Not Enough: State and Federal Policies to Support Needy Workers*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2006. \$24.00 papercover.

Social policies have historically been associated with employment issues and particularly with the promotion of work. However, social policy scholars have tended to focus on policies and programs that provide unconditional benefits and services, and which exemplify the altruistic or rights-based character of social welfare. Issues of work and employment have generally been left to economists. However, in recent years, as governments in different parts of the world have made greater use of social policies and programs to foster employment, the relationship between work and welfare has become a central issue in social policy debates.

In this informative book, Stoker and Wilson examine the relationship between welfare and work in the United States in considerable detail. They focus on eight programs that they believe have a particularly close association with employment policy. These include employer mandates such as the minimum wage, tax credits such as the EITC, food stamps, school meal programs, medical assistance, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), child care grants, rental assistance and the TANF program. Although these are primarily federal programs, they are administered collaboratively with states and often states have established their own programs. Together, they comprise what the authors