

International Social Science Review

Volume 91 | Issue 1

Article 12

2015

Framing the Global: Entry Points for Research edited by Hilary Kahn

Ariana Kalinic

University of California Santa Cruz

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/issr>

 Part of the [Anthropology Commons](#), [Communication Commons](#), [Economics Commons](#), [Geography Commons](#), [International and Area Studies Commons](#), [Political Science Commons](#), and the [Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kalinic, Ariana (2015) "Framing the Global: Entry Points for Research edited by Hilary Kahn," *International Social Science Review*: Vol. 91: Iss. 1, Article 12.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/issr/vol91/iss1/12>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Social Science Review by an authorized administrator of Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository.

Kahn, Hilary E., ed. *Framing the Global: Entry Points for Research*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014. xvii + 332 pages. Paperback, \$30.00.

Framing the Global: Entry Points for Research is an interdisciplinary collection of essays edited by Hilary E. Kahn, director of the Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University. The fourteen entries emerged from a series of Global Research Studies meetings among the authors who were interested in providing a grounded approach to the methodological and analytical issues faced by global studies scholars. Each contributor uses their own research project as the lens through which they explore their particular orientation to studying global issues, and while each comes to their own unique conclusions about what 'global' means to their work, the collection as a whole offers an important contribution about how global studies research should be done.

The contributors' objects of global study are quite diverse, including the year 1968, land in Botswana, and Hungarian food politics. In most essays, the author begins by framing the global nature of their question, situating their particular study in the wider global realm. They cite appropriate literature, and then share a detailed description of their work before closing with some thoughts on global studies. These essays are not organized thematically, but rather each claims its own theme, for instance, 'Genealogies,' 'Frames,' and 'Seascape.' This structure, while conceptually creative, leaves the reader wishing there were, in fact, a few essays on each theme so one could compare how different scholars treat a shared analytical category. For example, the first essay's theme is 'Affect,' and the author of this entry does an excellent job showing how they traced the theme of affect through the experiences of migrant Filipino caregivers. They have done such an excellent job, in fact, that as a reader one isn't yet ready to move on to reading about 'Displacement' in the rural rust belt, and instead wonders what a scholar of a different orientation towards 'Affect' might be working on. Perhaps another anthology from this productive working group could focus on a few of these common themes with multiple entries for each.

Despite the lack of shared themes, a close reading revealed important overlap among the authors' reflections on how to do global scholarship. These insights, scattered throughout the collection, account for the most important contribution this anthology makes to the existing global studies research literature, in which most authors often evade claims on how to do global work and instead focus on what global studies research is. Some of the suggestions made across the essays included a call to scholars to be more transparent in showing their reasons for choosing certain entanglements over others, the need for more space in the global studies literature for multidimensional analyses that move beyond dichotomies, a desire for more explicit attention to how scholars frame their approach to the global, and the importance of challenging commonly held assumptions about globalization. Again, these conclusions were not woven together as a set of shared agreements, but reappeared in different frames or language throughout many of the essays, and could be read together as the novel addition that these scholars are making together.

Due to these important contributions and the accessible interdisciplinary approaches to discussing complex global research endeavors offered in this collection, this text should be read not only by graduate students, but all scholars preparing to conduct global social science research. It provides reflections on many of the complex theoretical, ethical, and practical issues that inevitably arise along the way, but that researchers are often unprepared to encounter. Each author seems to have eagerly taken on the arduous task of showing us how they 'do it' and, in effect, lift the veil on the many methodological mysteries that shroud global social science research. The importance of interdisciplinary scholarship providing clear insights about how global research questions are asked and answered is rendered even more significant by this well-curated collection.

Ariana Kalinic, Ph.D.
Sociology Lecturer
University of California Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California