

Social Fabric Transformations: Research on International Perspectives

Edited by

Aaron C. Porter
Millersville University, USA

Athens Institute for Education and Research

2013

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Social Fabric Transformations: Research on International Perspectives: An Introduction

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The twenty-eight essays in this volume reflect complex issues involving cities, in particular communities ranging from small rural towns to cosmopolitan landscapes.¹ This includes close-knit, small communities, urban metropolitan areas, to corporate, business and other organizational environments. Many of the essays are written from a sociological perspective. Authors provide social contexts and processes for understanding larger phenomena and how they impact on community, corporate or social organizational culture as well. This includes their changes as a consequence to postindustrial dynamics.

At the core of these essays, however, is how economic and other structural transformations have impacted on social fabrics in organizational and community life. The stories and research work talked about in this volume represent a variety of European, African, and US cities. Research attention is also given to the Mediterranean region. Also represented in this book are neighborhoods and societies that characterize a diverse cultural cross section. The international perspectives in this volume center on postindustrial phenomena. This includes, in some cases, historical analysis, its evolution towards modern society, from 20th century and beyond. Readers are introduced to their impact on communities in world places, perhaps unknown by some. One of the important things about these essay pieces collectively is that they provide insight and perspective, bringing light and understanding to social worlds, and high tech places, in ways not necessarily illuminated in the past.

The intent of this book is to provide readers with insights into structural effects on cultural life in global perspective and on social behavior in general, especially in new places of academic and intellectual concern such as small rural areas in Sweden. Also featured is the utility of technology of on-line education in higher education. All research areas are identified. I identify their sociological importance by categorizing their impact on the social fabric in six distinctive sections of social thought and analysis through the assortment of articles published here. The economic transformations in postindustrial and modern society, for example, have affected economic opportunity structures, necessitating organizational and community change at various levels. This has

¹By cosmopolitan, I am referring to a variety of cultures alongside class differences and ideological values and beliefs that seem to function or operate within a shared community space. In this, I am building off the work of Anderson, Elijah. 2011. *The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life*. New York: NY. W.W. Norton and Co.

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impacted on the social fabric in many other ways. The authors detail this in their articles, using a variety of social theories toward enlarging understandings of social phenomena taking shape in European countries, the US, African cultural communities, and the Mediterranean, for instance. The articles also represent a wide range of methodological approaches toward sociological analysis, ranging from quantitative analyses, using demographic and survey research, to qualitative work. It also uses ethnographic field observational research, historical or content analysis, among other research methods.

The framework for this book in regards to better understanding postindustrial organizational and community life across the human globe is similar to approaches taken a few decades ago by a group of international social scientists. In 1965, the late US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan published a controversial work on the black family, looking in particular at occupational structures and their complexities, linking unemployment and underemployment to family stability and economy. Using the black family and the employability challenges that poor African American males found themselves, Moynihan also encouraged policy makers to focus on problems associated with urbanization, residential segregation, unemployment, and family stability as a consequence of changes to manufacturing and U.S. industries, thereby connecting changes in economy to labor markets and family social organizational life. William Julius Wilson would later build on this argument in a host of his books. I touch on a few here, building a basis toward understanding international scholarly efforts and thoughtful analysis given to the net effect of such changes on family and community life in a global society. This is reflected in *Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy*,¹ which serves as an important backdrop to the framework of this book.

In his most famous work, *The Declining Significance of Race*, Wilson advances Moynihan's argument about changes to occupational structures and their impact on the black community, especially the urban underclass. More importantly, Wilson also argued how technological changes in the US economy contributed to changes in the labor force. Wilson, for example, writes that these socio-economic changes demonstrate the increasing importance of social class, as educational advancement and high technical skill attainment became fundamental to the life chances of individuals to participate fully in the postindustrial market economy.² This includes the increased participation of black professionals in white-dominated institutions while the traditional segregated black community also experienced change, as the poor became more socially isolated. With works such as *The Truly Disadvantaged*, Wilson further advanced his argument, examining how structural changes in the

¹Katherine McFate, Roger Lawson, and William Julius Wilson, (eds), *Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy: Western States and the New World Order* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1995).

²Wilson, *The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 3rd ed., 2012).

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economy affected not only the poor, but family and community social organization as well. This initiated continued public policy discussions about poverty and social plight. *Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy* continues that discussion in a global context, focusing on the strains placed on families, in addition to a variety of social welfare programs and public policy matters while looking at family life in a new labor market postindustrial economy in places such as Canada and European communities, Sweden and Germany to name a few.

This volume is more expansive in terms of subject coverage; it includes and moves beyond family and community life; it does not generally repeat arguments in the literature about global market transformations. Instead, it builds on those arguments, undergirded by the authors in this volume. It examines not only changes to family life and community social organization in light of global economic transformations, but also speaks to how new patterns of immigration and economic opportunity affects community, business and corporate culture, and organizational life of the social fabric generally. To hone in on this idea, this book is divided into six sections as referenced above. These sections include: *Understanding Society through Social Theory, Political Mores, and Inequality; Postmodern Ethos in Corporate/Organizational Practice; Social and Mental Health in Postindustrial Public Discourse; Postindustrial Ways of life in Community Context; Environment, Cultural Capital, and Economic Growth: Mediterranean Experiences and, Family Life and Culture: International Perspectives in Postindustrial Society*. Each section through the work of the authors in their essays evaluates and speaks to how social fabrics have been altered, including their critical developments and changes; and, the role that culture or structural considerations played in their transformations. In some cases, these changes are related to postmodern urban experiences; in other cases, the social changes reflect broader dynamics, including empowerment issues, their implications toward social life, as detailed in this book. The brief overview of the articles in this book is described below as they appear in this volume.

Understanding Society through Social Theory, Political Mores, and Inequality

Section one begins with a historical perspective towards postmodern culture. For instance, in the work by Lars-Erik Berg, a professor of social psychology at the University of Skovde in Sweden, discourse analysis is used as a framework for the contemporary study of social meaning, its relationship to social reality, using the contributions of George Herbert Mead as a point of reference. In this, social theory is used as a way to understand “meaning making” in social environments – which becomes a basis to further explore social life in community or organizational structure, shared values, or how meaning is explained through symbolic interaction.

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Trevor Harrison in “Militarism and Political Culture” describes domestic changes brought about in civil society in light of the war on terrorism, using the U.S. as a critical example. Harrison argues that it has regulated social behaviors in civilian spheres, contributing to a new general way of life. Harrison introduces the idea of how militarism both as a concept and social action transcends and becomes dominant over U.S. institutions, seeping into the culture there, like snow melting into the deep dark earth, as the late poet b.f. maiz might describe. The author details the effect that the war on terrorism has created, a deeper pattern within society, imbuing its citizenry with controlled social behaviors in public culture through defense and security policies, with a consequent regulation affect on the social fabric.

In “European Colonial Terrorism and the Incorporation of Africa into the Capitalist World System,” author Asafa Jalata details structural forms of inequality through European “colonial terrorism” on African societies during the periods between the 15th and 20th centuries with their net effect on the modern era. The historical analysis provided here, details the manifestations of a racial caste system. It uses the limitations of classic social theory in not fully explaining what has taken place. Instead, the author uses terrorism as an important social construct to add to the discussion of this issue of how a system of domination is maintained through various discourses. According to the author, this includes “commerce, Christianity, modernity, and civilization to cultivate their African collaborators for dividing and conquering Africa. Systematic terrorism and other forms of violence enabled them to dominate African societies and exploit their economic and labor resources....” Jalata demonstrates that such a process of terrorism continues to be felt in modern culture in the form of violence, poverty, and disease.

“Indigenous Models of Capacity Building” describes how historical oppression and discrimination affects indigenous communities, with the net effect of creating a social change tradition within the social structure, using the American Indian and African American communities as critical models for evaluation. In this piece, Barbara Ackermann describes their social movements towards societal development and change in the midst of open wounds of alienation, fragmentation, with a societal healing process through their activities. At its core, the author uses a “capacity building” model as a unique way to describe both as a tradition and a flame toward societal change among indigenous groups from a Eurocentric world view.

Postmodern Ethos in Corporate/Organizational Practice

In section two, Olivia Foli and Gerald Gaglio begins this part by providing accounts of the on-going ways in which corporate organizations in large French companies maintain their public image culture -- in line with a cohesive and coherent image; this includes an organizational order through internal mechanisms, such as the selection of magazines for employees to read. In this,

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the use of internal media becomes part of the socialization process in how the organization wants to be viewed and represented by its workers – a corporate culture that works in unison with organizational beliefs about its self in ways that tends to please managers. Through the use of twenty-four interviews of in-house communication professionals, the authors provide keen insights into organizational practices.

In “Digital Immigration in a Foreign Land,” Carol M. Shepherd and Madelon Alpert examine a unique transition taking place in higher education in which the import of technology is heavily used in professional instruction, reflecting a divide in organizational university cultural life in the postmodern age. This divide is digital -- between students who grew up with the use of technology as part of their native culture and faculties who have become “digital immigrant instructors.” The authors provide a detailed account of this transition, in particular the ways in which this immigrant community works to assimilate into a new culture in high tech education and the “best practices” associated with this process in relationship to student success. They become compelled to adapt to these new technologies in instruction in order to fully participate in a new, market mainstream postmodern economy in higher education, noting “the keys to optimal survival in this new and exciting land.” Recommendations for effective teachers through on-line education are also described.

In “Seniors’ Experience of Home in the Context of Swedish Elderly Care Setting,” Ulla Hellstrom Muhli uses intensive interviews to describe the experiences of seniors who live in special housing accommodations in Western Sweden. The author details their adaptations to a new organizational and cultural family life, speaking to how seniors navigate social processes outside of traditional family discourses during their senior years. This group is also affected by larger social forces such as institutional regulations, reflecting a new kind of postindustrial community for seniors.

Social and Mental Health in Postindustrial Public Discourse

Section three begins with a group of scientists from Germany evaluating post operative care in modern culture, how measures of alternative care are played out, utilizing institutions and organizations that operate in the larger public sphere. Hence, Kollak, Utz-Billing, Gairing, Deingruber, Martus, and Siedentopf in their article, “Psychosocial Well-Being after Breast Cancer Surgery,” provides a historical account of one of the most common malignancies in women – breast cancer, examining this phenomena through its development, change, and surgical processes, reflecting its history in industrialized countries of the northern hemisphere . The authors demonstrate the socio-psychological importance of the growing interest in mind-body medicine, slowly becoming more imbued in modern culture. Yoga is used as a critical example of an alternative post-operative care measure in ways that

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might add to quality of life among breast cancer patients. This becomes especially the case among working to middle class women ranging in age between 32 and 84 years old in their study -- which was carried out in Westend Berlin, Germany. The intersection between health care and class culture in modern society underlies their study.

In “Religion and the Reintegration Experience of Drug-Involved African American Men Following Incarceration,” Sidney R. Jacobs provides an ethnographic account of an urban U.S. religious experience of incarcerated African American males. Jacobs points how religion might be used to help transform social behavior in the case of the group studied. The account includes inmates who converted to Islam. An analysis of their re-entry into society is detailed, noting their instability and in cases their dependency on substances, irrespective of religious orientations. Jacobs’ article has policy implications, demonstrating the importance of an infrastructure of support to facilitate successful post societal re-integration, including the import of proactive involvement of community faith-based institutions, family support, and employment.

In their article, “The Paradigm Development Model of treatment and the Multiple DUI Offender,” authors Melinda Hohman, Georgi DiStefano, and Susan Woodruff assess changes in cognitive and social behavior, through an intervention clinical program in the metropolitan California area, U.S. Their focus is on alcohol treatment among multiple DUI offenders, using a pilot Paradigm Development Model of Treatment for evaluation. It includes the role of alcohol “perception” and the import of community agency, such as counselors in behavioral patterns toward social change. Their work includes policy implications: the net effect of the limitations of their findings and how clinical interventions become further limited in light of state regulations. The sociological importance here is that questions can be raised in terms of how to improve social behavior through intervention programs in major metropolis areas like California despite structural limitations related to mental health policy and practice.

This section concludes with a very important essay by Karen A. Polonko, Nicholas Adam, Nazia Naeem, and Ava Adinolfi on “Child Sexual Abuse in the Middle East and North Africa.” The authors provide a scholarly review of the literature on child sexual abuse, with a particular focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), an area infrequently studied. They make a major contribution to social change in this area of research while calling attention to child sexual abuse in postmodern culture as a global problem. This demonstrates the similarities and differences between MENA and western cultures.

Postindustrial Ways of life in Community Context

Susanne Gustafsson's work begins section four by addressing whether activists "should be understood either as victims or as agents, or as both" in the article on Jämtland, a rural part of Sweden. Entitled "Challenging Understanding of Normalization in the Context of Women's Activism in Jamtland," Gustafson uses qualitative observational analysis to hone in on the central question of the work. Building on social theories of Bourdieu and Foucault, among others, the concept of agency is examined. How meanings are negotiated and how women extend their horizons through networking in contemporary society is also explored.

Bertha Sanduleasa, Mihaela Ghenta, and Aniela Matei in their article, "Juvenile Delinquency among Abandoned Children or Living in Families at risk of Marginalisation," show how socio-economic factors contribute to juvenile delinquency in Romania. Sociological criteria are employed to help explain why youth fall adrift of social norms and practices. They point out that "Romania is still in a period of reforms, the greatest social costs of this process being paid by families with many children." They are obliged to confront their difficulties in "securing resources for subsistence and in raising and educating their children." The authors use a complexity of sociological dynamics and the use of statistical analysis. They detail the role that economic migration of parents who leave their children at home in search of employment opportunities contributes to juvenile delinquent behaviors. Consequently, the child protection system is under reform in Romania. This article demonstrates how global economic factors in postindustrial context in European countries like Romania impact social fabrics in both family and community context.

In the article, "'We're hitting a lot of Brick Walls,'" Liz Brosnan uses social theory to describe how power is manifested in mental health services. It also assesses the empowerment and involvement of users. Social theorists such as Lukes and Foucault are not solely relied on in this work to illustrate "how the construction of psychiatric knowledge controls society." The author builds on the work of Carl Rogers to evaluate mental health services, including its impact on service-users. It might seem odd that this work appears here rather than in the health section. However, this article demonstrates what community members might experience as a consequence of the professionalization of knowledge in the modern era.

A study of cultural traditions outside mainstream societies is creatively explored by Angelina O.M. Saule in "A Comparative Analysis of Rebetika and Blues." It examines important elements in Greek and American subcultures. This includes how challenges of the poor and socially isolated are recognized through social agents, who use their lyrical voice to reach both the indigenous and wider communities about social realities. Saule describes these phenomena, including the use of musical traditions both historically and towards modern culture.

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How to improve the plight of marginalized students, in addition to other student groups through the college education process, is a central focus in the work by Anne Statham and Helen Rosenberg in their article, “Outcomes of Service Learning.” The authors utilize data gathered from academic campuses in Wisconsin-Parkside and in southern Indiana, U.S. Through their survey research, an analysis is made of the ways in which students advance, including their development of general skills with courses that involve increased civic engagement. The combination of these two elements “implies that students who connect their classroom pedagogy with organized participation not only serve their communities,” but also “become more civically engaged, learn a variety of skills that strengthen their thinking....” The authors demonstrate that volunteerism is significant, even with some differences in their learning skills model for student development between the campuses. The implications of their study speak to ways to improve student advancement through a recommendation of “best practices,” with the hope that doing such will, in the end, contribute to our postmodern civil society.

The last article in this section examines the different patterns of first intercourse experiences, using the Mexico population for critical insight and sociological understanding. Olga Rojas and Jose Luis Castrejon in “Gender and Sexual Initiation in Mexico” provide a historical perspective to sexual initiation experiences with its unfolding in contemporary society. Their analysis includes a sociological understanding of ritualistic practices among genders and how this differs over time depending on the rural, urban, or stratified class context.

Environment, Cultural Capital, and Economic Growth: Mediterranean Experiences

Section five begins with two unique articles that provide a historical context for understanding postmodern culture in Greek society. The first article uses architectural points of reference and the second uses archaeological findings towards understanding the cultural and social environments there. These articles are then followed by contemporary interpretations of postmodern Greece.

Maria Urma details visual culture apparent in early Greece through an analysis of architectural techniques and practices. In the essay, “The Impact of the Roman Domination upon the Architectural Space in Ancient Greece,” Urma provides an account of architectural composition ensembles and principles, using symbols to demonstrate how Ancient Greek architectural culture stands “apart from the architectural ensembles from other ancient cultures.” The author explains “two fundamental composition principles used in the Ancient Greek ensembles: the perspective with an open view in its axis and the perspective with two vanishing points of architectural objects. “ These styles are seen in the Acropolis of Athens and in Ancient Greece religious centers. However, with domination of Ancient Roman culture in architectural

objects, ecologies of the cities today tends to reflect such Ancient Rome contributions. The author shows what tends to be lost in an understanding of postmodern culture as a consequence of this domination while demonstrating the importance of Greek principles in composition in space and lived experiences, calling for revisits to this area of architectural inquiry, with understandings toward modern day utilization of space.

In “Between Ritual and Offering,” Elisabetta Pala offers an archaeological understanding of Attic pottery at the Athenian Acropolis. The essay provides an insight into Attic sanctuaries and the “Greek colonial world as the city of production of Attic pottery.” With historical detail about the significance of the vases and its social importance to cultural and ritual practices, other analyses about the vases include their meanings, fine pottery values, and myths associated with the items. The essay also makes clear the stratified class system operating as part of the economy during a historically important era. This is seen through the labor used to create the vases and the social class process involved in selecting the vases as part of the ritual practice. The implication of the work in post modernity reflects a segment of social class and cultural dynamics perhaps unnoticed by the general public.

A critique on how Greek novelists are influenced by and interpret contemporary Greek culture as a consequence of postmodernism is the primary focus of the work by Gerasimus Katsan. In the essay, “Bitter Organges, Sour Grapes” Katsan uses social theory as a framework to describe what is meant by the term post modernity while further exploring how it manifests itself in Greece. In this, the author details how local culture is affected by new global economic market trends and a globalizing culture. This includes the impact of technological advances on the sprawl of multinational corporations, changes to economic, cultural and political environments, a new kind of consumerism, and interpretations and meanings of modern urban life in Greece. Key questions that guide this essay include: “What are the implications of Greece’s participation in postmodern, globalized culture?” “How has postmodernity changed the culture in Greece?” The author contends that “many contemporary Greek writers engage in postmodernist experimentation in order to reflect these larger theoretical concerns as well as to explore the specific ways that global postmodernism has changed or effected the local, national culture of Greece.”

In the article, “Turkey’s Western Orientation,” author Levent Kirval provides a historical perspective towards understanding modern Turkey. The Ottoman Empire is described as a Euro-Mediterranean Oriental experience, or put another way, “a melting pot of different civilisations.” The Empire is examined in detailed in this essay, a critical point of departure towards understanding the development and management of financial resources and other economies as well as steps taken toward modernization. Cultures of the Mediterranean and South-Eastern Europe are also discussed. This article then is followed by an important account that involves modern day Turkey.

Gozde Oymen Kale provides an account of how professional organizations are used to help advance the economies of European communities. Kale shows

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the structural significance of joint collaborative work, in particular the role of the European Capital of Culture organization in attempts made with a host selected city toward economically advancing a region. This includes marketing techniques and business practices to help market particular geographic locations. Hence, in “Marketing the City of Istanbul as the European Capital of Culture,” Kale demonstrates how a “city brand” and cultural capital is used as a way to “diversify local economies faced with industrial decline.” According to the author, Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey. This article illuminates attempts made to increase market share of tourism and other cultural product markets in the globalized economy. Moreover, the importance of marketing and efforts aimed towards improving city identity and the economy in Istanbul is detailed, rooted in a historical context and strategy toward post modernity change.

Authors Francesca Santoro, Stefano Soriani, and Gabriele Zanetto provide accounts of the organizational approaches taken toward sustainable economic and environmental development in the Mediterranean. Sustainability of the Mediterranean is important, as it brings together “countries at different levels of economic and social development.” Hence, the implementation of coastal zone management practices are discussed and analyzed in their article entitled, “Measuring the Effectiveness of International Cooperation in the Mediterranean.” This article details the need for a regional organization to monitor, assess, and implement improvements to the marine environment in particular. Through the creation of the Mediterranean Action Plan, an organization that operates under the arm of the United Nations Environmental Program, the authors demonstrate the organization’s utility for coastal development of the region, using governmental policies, practices and outcomes to assess its effectiveness. Insights are provided into the process of reducing harmful environmental trends in Croatia, Syria, Israel, Greece, and Tunisia. This includes environmental hazards that impact the coastal region and economy, tourism behaviors that negatively impact on the environment. What becomes particularly important is the role of institutional and organizational structures toward reducing negative trends.

Family Life and Culture: International Perspectives in Postindustrial Society

In “A Survey of the Effects of Social, Cultural and Economic Capitals on Husband’s Violence Against Women,” Halimeh Enayat and Rahim Dehghany begin section six with an article that focuses on family life in Iran. The violence against women and the barriers they face is discussed. The authors use survey research as a base for analysis. The authors also examine women involvement in family life, the violence toward them, and how the increases in employment in scientific areas tend to decrease the violence against them. Key consideration is their connection to social networks in organizations and

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institutions in the larger society. Social behavior towards women tends to differ as some fall into a lower class status of unofficial work.

The work by Wanichcha Narongchai and Dusadee Ayuwat, entitled “Patterns of a Co-Skipped –Generation in Isan Migrant Family,” focuses on how social and economic structural forces have impacted traditional family life in Thailand. For example, with the change toward an industry and service based economy, “the way of life for Thai people has become more capitalistic.” The authors provide a historical account of this economic transformation on the social organization of family life in their examination of new family institutional formations that have occurred. Parents moving to work in places outside of rural environments, including their move to big cities, are at center stage in this analysis. Their migration toward job locations in the new market economy has affected traditional family life. The authors examine Isan society in particular, using qualitative analysis. This includes the role that elderly or grandparents now play in postindustrial society, classifying this group into two distinctive categories for analysis. The authors not only provide an analysis of the ways in which postindustrial forces impact on the management of the village community and larger society there, but also policy recommendations toward long-term family stability of skipped generation households in Isan.

Lobina G. Palamuleni and Martin E. Palamuleni in “Some Spatial Patterns of Age at Marriage in South Africa” describe South Africa as “one of the highly urbanized countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.” The authors use population census data, correlation analysis, and a community survey. They demonstrate that social and economic factors (i.e. urbanization and industrialization) have become key factors in first marriage patterns at the provincial level. They argue that people are marrying there at a later age, delaying marriage well into their 30s. This reflects a change from social customs due to structural changes in the modern economy. This includes labor migration patterns, as individuals seek educational and other professional skills in order to better situate themselves in the market economy. The depiction, as they contend, “is different from the picture presented by other researches for the early 1990s.” “Labola” is explored in great detail in this article, a cultural concept that connects education and status, demonstrating, in the end, how industrialization has impacted cultural traditions such as marriage.

Triin Roosalu and Veronika Kalmus study how internet usage affects child rearing by parents in their article, “Families Bolstering the Effects of Globalisation.” The authors use internet-technology and its net effect on popular culture, in particular on child development in order to assess child rearing choices by parents. Using twenty-seven European countries as a basis for comparative analysis, the authors detail their findings. This includes how family institutional arrangements can differ in parenting styles. Countries are placed into five European categories with each group impacted by the effects of globalization. Utilizing four types of intervention strategies to describe child rearing, the authors give close attention to the kinds of opportunities that women have in the workforce, including its relationship to child rearing

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parenting styles with internet usage. This article becomes a clear example of the motif of this book. It demonstrates how change in the postindustrial economy, impacts a social fabric, in particular family cultural practices in light of internet technologies and popular culture.

The article by Heikki Ervasti, “Criticism of the Welfare State in Europe,” investigates public sentiment towards welfare state systems in postmodern society among twenty-eight European countries. The author makes clear that the article is not intended to evaluate whether such programs are good or bad. Rather, the essay attempts to provide a critical assessment of public attitudes towards the welfare state, using in part the social science literature as a framework for analysis. It also notes that public sentiment involves a complex number of factors. These factors include socio-economic status and political orientation. The work is guided by three central questions such as “how commonly do people see the negative aspects of the welfare state,” or “how widespread is criticism in Europe.” Evaluations about the European welfare state are examined through the use of economic and procedural assessments to name a few. This criticism includes questions about the benefit system, i.e. welfare fraud and its net effect on governmental financial losses. Nonetheless, the article demonstrates general support for the welfare state across European countries even with “quite a few enemies.” One of the most revealing findings centers on how high levels of education and occupational status affects one’s view of the welfare state.

In summation, the sociological organization and analysis in this volume is written with the use of interdisciplinary scholarship. Articles reflect disciplines in the humanities, social and natural sciences, the professions to name a few. For example, in section five, architectural based research is used to provide insight and perspective into postmodern culture in Greece. Other disciplines are used to describe changes to organizational life, including cases that involve comparative analysis. In many sections of this book, historical analysis is often used with an eye towards modern society. These kinds of vestiges are used so that social understandings about society not only describe how social, cultural, and structural forces impact social fabrics globally, but also how such dynamics contribute to social, organizational, and institutional change in contemporary societies. Some of these changes cut across country and regional boundaries such as how new postindustrial patterns of immigration impact on family and social organization in general, as parent(s) travel, for instance, to different areas or regions in search to find or to maintain employment.

Readers will become witnesses to societal changes through scholarship, seeing with a context for keen understandings that as society changes, so too does social organization, institutions, cultural communities, and social classes, including professional labor. These become important backdrops toward understanding 21st century global society and economy, in particular how social fabrics adjusts to structural and other latent forces, with the hope that such changes include a transformative resolve.

