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Review of *Good Guys with Guns: The Appeal and Consequences of Concealed Carry*. Angela Stroud. Reviewed by Yanqin Liu.

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harmful rhetoric that often surrounds conversations about alleviating family poverty. Her extensive experience and first-hand knowledge from her diverse roles as a clinical social worker firmly cement her credibility as an expert in child poverty. Azzi-Lessing synthesizes relevant research from the fields of neuroscience, economics, developmental psychology, political science, and environmental sciences in a manner that is easy for lay people to understand. Her policy recommendations are concrete, tangible, and would not require additional funds, but rather only the reallocation of existing resources. This book is highly recommended to anyone interested in a reader friendly yet comprehensive book about child poverty.

Kristen Ravi
University of Texas at Arlington

Angela Stroud, *Good Guys with Guns: The Appeal and Consequences of Concealed Carry*. The University of North Carolina Press (2016), 159 pages, \$24.95 (paperback).

In this book, Angela Stroud primarily examines the ways in which the intersection of gender, race, and class produces a desire to have permits to carry concealed firearms in public. Through in-depth interviews with concealed handgun license (CHL) holders and field observations at licensing courses, the author utilizes a critical perspective to explain how social and cultural discourses shape respondents' understandings of obtaining a CHL.

After an overview of the rise of CHLs in the United States, the author presents the finding that masculinity plays an important role in shaping the cultural meanings of having CHLs. The framing of gun use as masculine has been embedded in men's hunting experiences with fathers during childhood, by participation in male-dominant institutions, and by the commodification of guns. The hunting stories not only demonstrate male-centered experiences, but also signify emotional connections between fathers and sons. The institutional influence of the military, police, and Boy Scouts reinforces the male sense

of gun use against potential threats. In addition, firearms are described as consumer objects that men can show off to others.

It is found that carrying licensed guns in public allows men a sense of being able to protect themselves from criminals, and against decreased masculinity as they age. Additionally, men are given the opportunity to embody their role of being a family protector as father and husband, even if they are absent from their wives and children. Stroud's interpretation of male attitudes toward carrying handguns highlights the importance of masculine culture.

The following chapter focuses on the ways gender shapes women's motivation to obtain permits to carry concealed guns in public. Interestingly, most women learned shooting from their father, husband, or boyfriend. Gun use makes women feel empowered for their own self-defense and freedom. Because of the cultural construction of gun use as man's activity, women perceive handgun competency as an effective response to potential victimization. Gun use gives women the power to reduce feelings of insecurity and develop a sense of accomplishment in the context of the wider patriarchal culture. Comparing the views of men and women in relation to gun use and obtaining CHLs, Stroud demonstrates that the act of carrying a concealed gun in public embodies different cultural meaning for each gender.

In addition to views of carrying concealed firearms, Stroud investigates how gender, race and class interact to influence CHL holder perceptions of potential crimes. Attitudes toward crimes are largely based on perceptions of reality shaped by gender, race, and class, and not on a rationally objective evaluation of threat. This finding suggests that an area is assumed to be dangerous if it is perceived to be poor and predominately black, and black men are more likely to be viewed as potential criminals. White people benefit from the privilege of being innocent until proven guilty, while black people are often considered guilty until proven innocent. The author emphasizes the influence of race and does a good job in revealing that respondents racialize their perceptions of potential threats while simultaneously striving to avoid overtly racist expressions.

A final chapter offers a macro level analysis of how CHL holders themselves understand their decisions to carry handguns. The author incorporates the neoliberal discourse that

explains personal choice as the main reason for the existence of social problems. The emphasis on individualism, including personal control and personal responsibility, is at the heart of what makes obtaining a CHL appealing. Many respondents believe that government policies foster a culture of dependency and hope to take personal responsibility to protect their individual freedom from government control. The author suggests that concealed handgun licensing is not only an expression of an individual right to self-defense, but also a representation of self-reliance and personal liberty.

The author makes a positive contribution to the analysis of how the intersection of gender, race, and class influences CHL holders' understandings of potential crimes. It is well supported that although learning to be aware of potential crimes can be beneficial, people are more likely to be victimized by the social construction of criminality than by crime itself. One serious limitation of this book is that most respondents are white people. If the responses from African American CHL holders were collected, the author would have stronger empirical evidence for his main arguments regarding the centrality of race. Overall, this book helps us understand the reasons for obtaining CHLs specifically. The author provides a useful practical recommendation, advocating that instructors at licensing courses should pay attention to how biases shape people's understandings of potential crimes.

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Christopher P. Dum, *Exiled in America: Life on the Margins in a Residential Motel*. Columbia University Press (2016), 320 pages, \$34.99 (hardcover).

Individuals experiencing residential instability are among the most marginalized in the United States. Sociologist Christopher P. Dum's new book explores the lives of residents in *Boardwalk Motel*, located in a white middle-class suburban town of Dutchland. Through a year of immersive ethnographic research, Dum thoroughly investigates the impact of a constellation of social