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**Review of *Creative Teamwork: Developing Rapid Site-Switching Ethnography*. by Pat Armstrong and Ruth Lowndes**

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This will be a valuable collection for anyone interested in the problems of the global garment industry. Although it does seem to aim for people who are already familiar with the topic, this book would be useful for anyone interested in the current state of this industry. I wanted more quantitative data, such as the percentage of people involved with a union, and the distribution of wealth between the different levels of management and workers in a given factory, but of course such information is incredibly difficult to tease out with accuracy. Yet even without such data, the arguments presented are incredibly convincing.

For a thorough look at the garment industry on a global stage and its impact on the health of workers, *Unmaking the Global Sweatshop* fills a genuine gap. From narrating the rise and fall of a company intending to be as ethical as possible, to seeing how the various agreements made by NGOs, governments, and manufacturers impact the lives of individual workers, *Unmaking the Global Sweatshop* provides a compelling picture of the garment industry today.

Jacob Van Pelt  
Illinois State University

Pat Armstrong and Ruth Lowndes, *Creative Teamwork: Developing Rapid Site-Switching Ethnography*. Oxford University Press (2018), 194 pages, \$55 (hardcover).

Most countries of the world are entering into the experience of an aging society, yet it remains difficult to arouse interest in the study of long-term care facilities. Researcher themselves often experience deep distress in face of constant exposure to elderly residents of long-term care homes, whose lives include the end stages of the aging process, along with loneliness, loss of value, diseases, incapability, dependence on helpers, and various stages of dementia. Most people, it seems, prefer the company of children to that of the oldest among us. Although everyone hopes for health and longevity in life, few people really enjoy constant and up-close exposure to what real longevity looks like.

*Creative Teamwork: Developing Rapid Site-Switching Ethnography*, outlines a new method for studying this group, which the authors call rapid, site-switching ethnography (RSSE). As a research method, RSSE employs the general techniques of ethnography, such as interviewing, participant observation, document review and focus groups. It adds to this some creative advancements, such as assigning at least two researchers working collaboratively within any particular long-care facility, employing common field notes, voice recordings and interview notes, with a strong emphasis on information sharing and reflections from different disciplines. The book itself is the product of an eight-year project, "Reimagining Long-Term Residential Care: An International Study of Promising Practices" (RLTRC), a large interdisciplinary research program applying the RSSE approach.

The head editor, Pat Armstrong, is a professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at York University in Toronto. A Fellow of Canada's Royal Society, she has published widely on the field of social policy, women, health and social services, and served as the PI of the project. Co-editor Ruth Lowndes is a Research Associate at York University, and was engaged full time in the RLTRC project.

The book contains twelve chapters. The first chapter lays out the theory and methodological issues related to RLTRC project. Based on feminist political and economic perspectives, the chapter concerns reproduction and maintenance of people on a daily and generational basis, therefore also including the unpaid work in long-care homes in the study. The feminist approach values lived experience, and especially notices gender issues in the division of labor in care facilities. A significant highlight is the outsized role of immigrant and minority women in the care giving labor force in long-term care for the elderly. The chapter describes ways in which factors such as context, working conditions, time complexity and other important matters are integrated into the research methodology.

The following chapters identify administrative issues related to the project that are particularly relevant when organizing large research projects, as well as concerns with ethical challenges in team ethnographic research work with vulnerable populations. Chapters in this section also describe specific

issues, such as site selection and preparation and building relationships of rapport. Two chapters then discuss the specific methods employed in the interviewing and field note recordings. The strengths and limitations of the feminist framework are compared with more traditional ethnographic research.

A highpoint in the book is one of the middle chapters, entitled "Different Eyes." In this chapter, two team members compare their observations and thoughts gained during their simultaneous fieldwork in the same nursing home. Here we see dramatically how disciplines situate knowledge differently, and how their interests, observations and interpretations are shaped by disciplinary values and perspectives. One of these researchers is an RN trained in sociology, while the other is a historian. Reporting on observations in the same time and place, the historian's field notes focus on the space, location and historical background of the care home, while the nurse/sociologist highlights much more clearly issues of care, the panorama of relationships in the facility, and accountability for the provision of care within the facility. This material is then compared to similar findings in care facilities in Canada and Germany. Significantly, facilities which place strong emphasis on accountability tend to focus on proper documentation, whereas facilities that emphasize relationships tend to focus on communications, sociality, touch and shared responsibility for the work.

Another significant chapter, integrating humanities into the research process, describes the use of people telling their stories. Such stories intersect as they are collected from multiple resources, such as dementia residents, administrators, workers, and family members. To dementia residents, some of their narratives have some facets of truth and many more aspects of meaning making. These stories include things the residents notice, value, have interest in or find worrying. The significance of such stories lies not in factual conformity, but in the mystery of finding truth in the narrative, offering insight into the perspectives of the narrators' understanding of their own position in relation to the home, themselves, and the researchers.

Although this book mainly describes employment of a specific method in the interdisciplinary and international study of care homes, it also contains promising elements of practice often

neglected by traditional quantitative research. This spurs us toward higher valuing of qualitative study and rethinking the need for balance in quantitative assessment and service quality.

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Stephen Pimpare, *Ghettos, Tramps, and Welfare Queens: Down and Out on the Silver Screen*. Oxford University Press (2017), 342 pages, \$35 (hardcover).

Representations of poverty in the film industry step into the limelight in Stephen Pimpare's new book, *Ghettos, Tramps and Welfare Queens*. I was excited to review this book, as I have a background in Film Studies in addition to my formal social work training. The suspension of disbelief is the practice of setting aside one's critical faculties to participate in escapism through fiction. Here, Pimpare calls on the reader to critically investigate representations of poverty in film from the silent era to our modern times, in order to analyze how the selected films reflect social welfare policy and advocacy at the time of a film's production. Pimpare demonstrates that there are identifiable tropes and stock characters within the genre of films about poverty, while highlighting that, in the real world, most of the poor in the United States are the working poor.

Pimpare takes the position that the effect of these portrayals is more important than their intent, as the overwhelming majority of filmmakers and writers do not have direct experience with poverty. Therefore, while the representations of the poor in film matter because they are influential, they all too often perpetuate stereotypes about poverty based on ignorance. This book is important because it conditions the viewer to look past the common reliance on an individual character's behavior to explain their poverty. We are educated on how social welfare policy often systematically reproduces poverty and how film plays its part both in disguising this fact and perpetuating the myths. The reader comes away more sensitive to how audiences