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# Review of *Sanctuary Cities, Communities, and Organizations*. Melvin Delgado

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the race and gender climate of the time explains bipartisan support of these initiatives. Support for welfare-to-work initiatives on both sides of the aisle paved the way for the end of welfare as conceived in the New Deal's AFDC, and subsequent Democratic acceptance of welfare policies that "limit poor mothers' self-sovereignty through various sexual, reproductive and familial interventions" (p. 132).

The third concern serves as a major contribution of this book, highlighting the activism of social justice feminists and collaborating welfare organizations around reform. Throughout, the authors demonstrate the contentious nature of welfare reform policy in 1990s, despite its reputation as a bipartisan success. They focus on the work of intersectional feminist dissenters, such as Patsy Mink, who consistently advocated for the centering of women's economic self-sufficiency and the valuing of their caregiving in welfare policy. Additionally, they contend that welfare reform remains a critical aspect of politics and provide suggestions forward for Democrats and unaffiliated progressives. While the authors demonstrate and advocate for intersectional approaches to welfare reform, one area that they fall short in terms of intersectional feminist tenets is accessibility. The book is saddled with complicated academic language, which serves to alienate the very populations they intend to uplift and address in their work. Despite this shortcoming, *Ensuring Poverty* is timely in an era in which who is at the table seems more important than ever before.

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Melvin Delgado, *Sanctuary Cities, Communities, and Organizations.* Oxford University Press (2018), 282 pages, $22.41 (hardcover).

Melvin Delgado spotlights an evolving movement to address constantly changing attitudes on immigration and citizenship. Recent vilification of undocumented immigrants has created a humanitarian need that a broad range of civic, social and religious institutions is attempting to address through local

action. This book is a call to action divided into three sections: (1) Grounding Sanctuary Cities; (2) Sanctuary Cities, Communities, Organizations and Homes; and (3) Where to Now?

Section I, Grounding Sanctuary Cities, provides context for the current national climate by examining historical, cultural, social and economic forces. Delgado defines sanctuary sites as "geographical entities or organizations…that at a minimum have openly expressed an unwillingness to cooperate with ICE when there is an effort to arrest someone who is undocumented" (p. 13). Delgado outlines five conditions that create social anxiety around immigration. Two of these forces are being used to fuel the current national climate: Linking immigration to security concerns, and government unwilling or unable to control the number of immigrants entering the country. A quick review of recent media stories will reveal how the current administration is using these perceptions to fuel anxiety and build support for the presidential border wall. The author notes the urgent need for social workers and others with influence to provide the counter-argument to the "fake news" that undermines these communities. The sanctuary movement is the civil and moral challenge to this created backlash. Delgado points out the parallels between the present and the nation's fight to protect runaway slaves. "The influence is concrete and symbolic. Sanctuaries force us to examine the prevailing paradigms and the deficit language used to describe them" (p. 33).

Delgado provides a reflection of immigration history in the United States with multiple references providing a comprehensive review of the transition of national attention, from Irish and Italian immigrants to the current focus on Latinos and the southern border. The author explores the drivers for immigration and the American attitude toward them. These attitudes cycle from need to fear, depending on the need for workers (for example, during the Industrialization period) and competition for resources (as during the Great Depression and the recent recession).

Sanctuary cities offer safety and security for the undocumented. Sanctuaries have clear boundaries and attract immigrants due to their mix of social support and employment opportunities. These cities embrace the sanctuary movement to maintain trust and support of the citizens they are responsible to protect. These cities recognize that newcomers to their cities bring energy, willingness to work in low prestige jobs, and that they create

significant positive economic benefits for city centers. It is imperative to humanize these immigrants by pulling back labels and capturing their stories and understanding their sacrifices in pursuit of personal safety and opportunity for their families.

Delgado explores, furthermore, the criminalization of the undocumented, drawing attention to multiple statistics that support that immigrants are less likely to commit serious crimes than are citizens. He points out that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is now the leading arresting agency for the federal government, replacing even the Department of Justice (DOJ). The description of the "Arizona War Zone" (p. 90) and the number of deaths without dignity that occur in the desert requires us to understand the drivers for immigrants to risk the journey; put simply, for them it is safer than staying home.

The alignment of sanctuary cities with other social and religious organizations is explored at length also. The role of the Catholic Church historically and in the current immigration crisis is highlighted in Boston and San Francisco. The alignment between churches and civil leadership emphasizes human rights and social justice. The guiding principle of the sanctuary movement is access without fear. Other organization, including mass transit, schools, health centers and libraries support this principle through action.

Delgado concludes with several case studies of key cities and the role they play. The strength of the book lies in the timely examples it employs. Delgado's ability to align sanctuary cities with global and historical movements for social justice remove the stigma portrayed by media. He provides a concise and comprehensive history of immigration and the drivers for the sanctuary movement. He concludes with the call to action for civic, religious and social leaders.

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