Daily Labors: Marketing Identity and Bodies on a New York City Street Corner, by Carolyn Pinedo-Turnovsky

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol47/iss1/10

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comprehensive community supports, including housing. In a shocking statistic, Powers notes that there are ten times more mentally ill inmates than those in mental health facilities in this country. In California, Powers notes that 28% of the correctional system are mentally ill inmates.

By turning inward, this book presents a fertile base for pragmatic steps necessary to improve the lives of those with severe mental illness. How can we support those with schizophrenia in the community, and out of correctional settings? How do we boost opportunities for non-pharmacological modalities to improve quality of life? How can we improve communication among these individuals with their families, and the medical community to preserve their lives? Just as anosognosia, or a symptomatic forgetting of illness occurs among some of those living with mental illness, this book is a clear documentation of our own forgetting, our own entrenched denial.

Christopher Gjesfjeld
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Day laborers are not a new phenomenon in the United States labor market, and various scholars have investigated informal day-labor markets. However, few scholars have examined the interactions and processes in the way of Carolyn Pinedo-Turnovsky, who stands beside men seeking employment in Brooklyn, New York, and their challenges of presenting themselves as *un buen trabajador* (a good worker). Pinedo-Turnovsky spent approximately three years (summer 2001 to winter 2004) alongside African American men and Latino immigrant men who sought out day laborer work at a Brooklyn street corner.

By sharing the life experiences of these men, this ethnographic study aims to increase knowledge about the lived experiences of both Latino immigrant and African American men who seek employment through the daily labor market. Through
the lives of four men, Pinedo-Turnovsky illustrates how these men seek employment in a space “where race, gender, nationality, and the law create a complex and stratified labor market in which they are both excluded and included” (p. 4). Through these unique stories the reader gains insight into a labor market that can exploit and play into the vulnerabilities of these men; yet, Pinedo-Turnovsky illustrates how these men also conform to fit the image of a good worker for potential employers. Through this book, it is made clear that daily laborers are active participants in their own economic and social lives; daily laborers are not just looking to make money, but also to create a social community and institute changes in the labor market.

The book is divided up into two parts, which includes the assessment of Making Good Workers and Making Community. Part I includes four chapters: street-corner workers; Compadre’s corner; the stories of Sergio and William in becoming legal; and daily masculinity. Part II includes three chapters. The first chapter explores the social community in which workers avoid problems, how to ask for help, and how understand their debts and duties. The last two chapters provide insight into the social practices of the street corner community, as well as the methodology and assessment of doing this specific fieldwork.

This ethnographic study teaches readers about three complexities of the daily labor market in Brooklyn, New York: “1) How the different groups of workers negotiate practices on the corner to attain recognition as a Real Day Laborer and thus acquire work, 2) how workers reinforce and challenge normative ideologies about race, ethnicity, gender, and nationality, and 3) how workers live through a duality of legality (illegal versus legal, citizen versus alien) that frames the workers’ consciousness – that is, their perceptions of work experiences and sense of belonging on the corner” (pp. 10-11).

Although the author does a great job describing the “corner” intersection, it would have been helpful to have a visual map of the area she describes. I often found myself trying to paint a picture in my mind of the various groups and specific corners in which they stand to wait for work. Overall, this book provides a new understanding of the unique identities and situations in which men gain employment and is a significant contribution to the literature in a variety of areas, including labor
and economic relations, Latino/a studies, sociology, immigration, ethnography, undocumented- and mixed-status experience, and citizenship studies.

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Lewis here provides an introduction to quantitative problems facing professional social workers that departs from the tedious statistics textbooks traditionally utilized in social science courses. In this text, Lewis presents mathematical concepts in a conversational style intended to provide baseline mathematical knowledge for both social work students and professionals. The book connects math to relevant social issues and policies, including measurements of poverty, the relationship between math and politics, and how to assess objectivity in the allocation of resources. This novel text is a critical primer of the mathematical aspects of social issues for social scientists who do not consider themselves, as the author states, “numbers” people.

The book begins by tackling policy debates; that is, how arguments play an important role in the discussions of social issues. This is an excellent introduction to the role numbers play within social policy development. Generally left to economists, the author illustrates how and why social workers must understand mathematical concepts to prove the merits of social policies supported by the field. The book then offers a review of basic mathematical concepts through a brief explanation of set theory. Ratios, proportions, and percentages are a welcome review, given their frequent use in the field when allocating resources as well as during policy development.

A multitude of examples from current policies allow readers to connect measurement concepts to broader societal issues and demography discussed in the classroom, the field, and the media. For instance, Lewis details how inflation and social program benefits such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families