



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 47
Issue 1 *March*

Article 12

2020

Critical Multiculturalism and Intersectionality in a Complex World,
by Lacey M. Sloan, Mildred C. Joyner, Catherine J. Stakeman, and
Cathryne L. Schmitz

María Aguilar-Amaya
Arizona State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>

Recommended Citation

Aguilar-Amaya, María (2020) "*Critical Multiculturalism and Intersectionality in a Complex World*, by Lacey M. Sloan, Mildred C. Joyner, Catherine J. Stakeman, and Cathryne L. Schmitz," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 47 : Iss. 1 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol47/iss1/12>

This Book Review is brought to you by the Western Michigan University School of Social Work. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics underlines the point that math is a valuable tool in the pursuit of social justice. The author here concedes that an entire book could be written connecting these ideas. Despite such limitations, the text is highly readable and an excellent supplement for inclusion in social policy and statistics courses.

*Renee Andersen Garbe
Arizona State University*

Lacey M. Sloan, Mildred C. Joyner, Catherine J. Stakeman, and Cathryne L. Schmitz, *Critical Multiculturalism and Intersectionality in a Complex World*. Oxford University Press. (2018). 171 pages, \$23.97 (paperback).

This book explores beliefs not typically discussed in open, that is, various levels of privilege around the world, specifically in relation to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and ableism in relation to marginalized populations. The discussion is coupled with real life experiences from individuals. The subject of privilege is often difficult to discuss, especially when dealing with race and ethnicity. There have been books on issues related to multiculturalism, but these authors provide here an encompassing discourse of multiculturalism easily accessible within one book.

Coming from backgrounds in social work and academia, the authors approach the subject of privilege and marginalization head on. The writing style is clear and understandable, allowing for sensitive subjects to be easily processed. Each chapter begins with a profound quote which frames the information discussed. Individualized experiences written in the first person provide a real life understanding of the topics and help readers to connect on a personal level. Summaries put each chapter in context, as readers are encouraged to explore their own personal beliefs, social norms and practices with their communities through a series of provocative questions. This approach is critically important to students pursuing a profession of service to others.

This book starts out taking the reader down a path to understanding multiculturalism, oppression, and action, and then

segues into engaging in self-reflection and identity development. The concept of privilege is examined in subsequent chapters, as well as intersectionality and the positioning privilege and marginalization. The book concludes with an examination of what is meant by the pursuit of critical multicultural practice. The strengths of this book are many so long as the reader has an open mind and is willing to engage in critical self-reflection. Providing a more global perspective of multiculturalism is a particular strength. The case examples place the material into real life contexts. Given that the topics can be somewhat uncomfortable for less open-minded readers, perhaps the authors might have considered providing a warning of some sort to such readers that they may be entering some potentially dangerous emotional territory!

María Aguilar-Amaya
Arizona State University

Jill Duerr Berrick, *The Impossible Imperative: Navigating the Competing Principles of Child Protection*. Oxford University Press (2018), 244 pages, \$36.95 (hardcover).

Child welfare professionals are committed to protecting children amidst a complicated system of often-contradictory policies, best practices, and realities. From an initial report of suspected child abuse or neglect through the end of a case, child welfare professionals make assessments and determinations about the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. These difficult decisions often have life-altering consequences for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Jill Duerr Berrick argues that competing ideas shape the child protection system in the United States and specific principles are needed to guide child welfare practice and policy.

Proposed here are eight fundamental principles, which aim to go beyond the established code of ethics within social work and specifically address the unique field of child welfare. The fundamental principles include freedom from governmental intrusion for parents safely caring for children, safety for all children, a dedication to family preservation, extended relatives