SAME-SEX PARTNERS
The Social Demography of Sexual Orientation
Amanda K. Baumle, D’Lane Compton, and Dudley L. Poston Jr.

A demographic portrait of gay and lesbian couples who live together in committed relationships.

Addressing the lack of understanding regarding the lives of same-sex couples, this book examines the sociodemographic characteristics of partnered gay men and lesbians. The authors draw on U.S. census data to present quantitative analyses of topics pertaining to gay men and lesbians that have previously been relatively unexamined or assessed mainly through qualitative studies. They explore where gay men and lesbians live, why they choose those residences, income inequality, occupations, dimensions of family attachments, relationship commitments, and family structures. The census data allows the authors to provide a more detailed representation of many of the essential features in the lives of gay men and lesbians compared to those of married and cohabiting heterosexuals. In certain cases, the data and analyses reinforce current stereotypes, while in other cases they challenge preexisting beliefs. Ultimately, this book provides a foundation for future research, policy, law, and understanding regarding gay men and lesbians.

Amanda K. Baumle is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston and the author of Demography in Transition: Emerging Trends in Population Studies. D’Lane Compton is a doctoral candidate at Texas A&M University. Dudley L. Poston Jr. is Professor of Sociology and George T. and Gladys H. Abell Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University. He is the author or editor of many books, including (with Michael Micklin) Handbook of Population.

PORTABLE COMMUNITIES
The Social Dynamics of Online and Mobile Connectedness
Mary Chayko

Looks at the social implications of having constant access to others through cell phones, wireless computers, and other electronic devices.

“I blog, text, IM, email, and I don’t like to be without my cell phone or have to shut it off—even in a theater. Let’s put it this way, my ‘connections’ are more important than whatever I’m doing that might force me to shut my cell phone off.”

In contemporary American life, community has become a portable phenomenon—you can “get it to go” wherever and whenever it is desired at the push of a button, mouse, or keyboard. In Portable Communities, sociologist Mary Chayko examines the social dynamics and implications of having access to countless others at any time. Teeming with the observations of people who blog, email, instant message, game, and chat on cell phones, among other practices, the book captures the appeal and the excitement, the challenges and the complexities, of online and mobile connectedness. Chayko considers some of the external dynamics that emerge as these communities resonate with the larger society—constant availability, social interaction that is more controlled and controllable, and new opportunities for self-expression, creativity, and even voyeurism. She also provides a unique view of shifts in the social landscape, from diminished privacy to lack of technological access for all and points the way toward needed social and political change.

Mary Chayko is Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of Saint Elizabeth and the author of Connecting: How We Form Social Bonds and Communities in the Internet Age, also published by SUNY Press.
GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOODS
Jewish Quarters in Paris, London, and Berlin
Michel S. Laguerre

Looks at how contemporary Jewish neighborhoods interact with both local and transnational influences.

Global Neighborhoods analyzes the organization of everyday life and the social integration of contemporary Jewish neighborhoods in Paris, London, and Berlin. Concentrating on the post-Holocaust era, Michel S. Laguerre explains how each urban diasporic site has followed a different path of development influenced by the local milieu in which it is incorporated. He also considers how technology has enabled extraterritorial relations with Israel and other diasporic enclaves inside and outside the hostland.

Shifting the frame of reference from assimilation theory to globalization theory and the information technology revolution, Laguerre argues that Jewish neighborhoods are not simply transnational social formations, but are fundamentally transglobal entities. Connected to multiple overseas diasporic sites, their interactions reach beyond their homelands, and they develop the logic of their social interactions inside this larger network of relationships. As with all transglobal communities, there is constant movement of people, goods, communications, ideas, images, and capital that sustains and adds vibrancy to everyday life. Since all are connected through the network, Laguerre contends that the variable shape of the local is affected by and affects the global.

Michel S. Laguerre is Professor and Director of the Berkeley Center for Globalization and Information Technology at the University of California at Berkeley. He is the author of many books, including Diaspora, Politics, and Globalization and The Digital City: The American Metropolis and Information Technology.

THE ILLUSION OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY
Richard Stivers

Explores how Enlightenment values have been transformed in a technological civilization.

Arguing that the ideology of freedom and equality today bears little resemblance to its eighteenth-century counterpart, Richard Stivers examines how these values have been radically transformed in a technological civilization. Once thought of as a kind of personal property and an aspect of the dignity of the individual, the context of freedom and equality today is technological before it is political and economic and is also now largely thought of in collective terms. Focusing on the work of Jacques Ellul and Max Weber, Stivers traces the development of freedom and equality in Enlightenment thought and American history and then proceeds to discuss their current ideologies, realities, and illusions.

“This outstanding and timely book faces head-on current political issues surrounding freedom and equality.”
— Norman K. Denzin, University of Illinois

Richard Stivers is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Illinois State University and the author of Shades of Loneliness: Pathologies of a Technological Society and Technology as Magic: The Triumph of the Irrational.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AMERICAN CITIES
The Pursuit of an Equity Agenda
Michael I. J. Bennett and Robert P. Giloth, editors

Evaluates the impact of equity investments in five cities during the 1990s.

Economic Development in American Cities addresses the roles of municipal leaders and civic partners in promoting social equity by examining the experiences of five American cities in the 1990s—Austin, Cleveland, Rochester, Savannah, and Seattle. These five cities were chosen for their activist municipal administrations, robust policy agendas, and viable partnerships. Contributors familiar with each city evaluate the impact of equity investments and extract lessons for municipal leaders and policy agendas. Building on the past experiences of progressive cities, each case study city offers fresh perspectives and examples, told through a rigorous analysis of socioeconomic data and program outcomes combined with engaging stories about specific municipal administrations and policy agendas.

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IMPOSSIBLE DEMOCRACY
The Unlikely Success of the War on Poverty Community Action Programs
Noel A. Cazenave

Explores how community action programs used federal funds to sponsor social protest–based community reform.

Impossible Democracy challenges the conventional wisdom that the War on Poverty failed, by exploring the unlikely success of its community action programs. Using two projects in Manhattan that were influential precursors of community action programs—the Mobilization for Youth and the Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited—Associated Community Teams—Noel A. Cazenave analyzes national and local conflicts in the 1960s over what the nature of community action should be. Fueled by the civil rights movement, activist social scientists promoted a model of community action that allowed for the use of social protest as an instrument of local reform. In addition, they advanced a more participatory view of how democracy should work, one that insisted local decision making not be left solely to elected officials and other powerful people, as traditionally done.

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