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SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Sociology

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The following review appeared in the April 2014 issue of CHOICE:

51-4738 HE8789 2013-30776 CIP
Carrillo Rowe, Aimee. **Answer the call: virtual migration in Indian call centers**, by Aimee Carrillo Rowe, Sheena Malhotra, and Kimberlee Perez. Minnesota, 2013. 242p bibl index afp ISBN 9780816689385, \$75.00; ISBN 9780816689392 pbk, \$25.00

Although this is not the first scholarly book on call center labor or US outsourcing of such labor to India, this work is valuable due to the authors' ethnographic interviews taking place over the span of nearly 10 years, between 2003 and 2012. The interviewees include call center workers, agents, trainers, managers, and CEOs. Simultaneously, the book is well founded on pertinent theoretical frameworks, such as those of Arjun Appadurai, Manuel Castells, and Zigmunt Bauman. The authors argue that outsourcing creates workers' virtual migration to the US, in which workers are required to speak English with American accents, be knowledgeable about US sports and culture, and follow the US calendar while missing Indian holidays and events. Those involved in this industry experience a sense of in-betweenness. Although some workers become more economically and socially powerful thanks to this transnational labor system, their lives embody US hegemony and colonialism. Workers are exposed to US class mobility and consumption, while such opportunities in India might be limited. A very relevant and timely work that addresses the issues of inclusion and exclusion in relation to globalization. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All academic levels/libraries. -- *Y. Kiuchi, Michigan State University*

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The following review appeared in the April 2014 issue of CHOICE:

51-4749 HQ1236 2013-29575 CIP
Perry, Keisha-Khan Y. **Black women against the land grab: the fight for racial justice in Brazil.** Minnesota, 2013.
213p bibl index afp ISBN 9780816683239, \$75.00; ISBN 9780816683246 pbk, \$25.00

In this concise and highly original monograph, Jamaican-born scholar and activist Perry (Africana studies, Brown) provides rare insight into the lives of poor women of color in Bahia, Brazil. She argues that these women have historically been discriminated against not only on the basis of race, but on gender as well. And yet, as she superbly demonstrates in the case of the poor, sea-level community of Gamboa de Baixo, Bahia (located just below the modern apartment houses of the well-to-do), women residents have been able to resist land grabs by exerting unexpected political muscle far more effectively than their male counterparts. Perry attributes this success to the tenacity of the women occupants and to the experience they have had as domestics in negotiating on a daily basis between the worlds of the rich and powerful and the poor and voiceless. Where men have failed, the women of Gamboa have managed to hold on to their land and their homes as well, although there is a constant need for vigilance. Powerfully argued, this intimate glimpse into the lives of black women of Brazil benefits from the author's personal commitment to their cause. Important reading. **Summing Up:** Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above. -- *R. M. Delson, American Museum of Natural History*

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History, Geography & Area Studies - North America

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The following review appeared in the April 2014 issue of CHOICE:

51-4631 GN645 2013-21788 CIP
Escape from New York: the New Negro Renaissance beyond Harlem, ed. by Davarian L. Baldwin and Minkah Makalani. Minnesota, 2013. 442p bibl index afp ISBN 9780816677382, \$82.50; ISBN 9780816677399 pbk, \$27.50

These 19 essays add to the growing body of Harlem Renaissance studies that seek to expand the geographical and interpretative boundaries of this event. The editors define the book's unifying theme, arguing that the Harlem Renaissance--or, as they prefer, the New Negro Renaissance--should be viewed as an international and political awakening not only of African Americans, but of non-white peoples across the globe, and that it must be recognized as a political/liberation movement as well as a signal event in African American literature and arts. The contributors represent a number of humanities disciplines and interdisciplinary fields. Many of the essays provide new ways to look at the renaissance, and all are thought provoking. The strength of the collection is its breadth--the variety of topics addressed, many of which are not usually discussed in terms of the Harlem Renaissance. The weakness is that the focus on "revolutionary" politics and international racial consciousness occasionally takes readers some distance from the Harlem Renaissance, and to political links that cannot be sustained. Still, serious scholars of 20th-century African American studies should not ignore this book. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. -- *C. D. Wintz, Texas Southern University*

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Education

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The following review appeared in the April 2014 issue of CHOICE:

51-4568 E97 2013-4845 MARC
Davis, Julie L. **Survival schools: the American Indian Movement and community education in the Twin Cities.**
Minnesota, 2013. 307p bibl index afp ISBN 9780816674282, \$69.00; ISBN 9780816674299 pbk, \$22.95

Davis (history, St. John's Univ.) describes two small alternative schools from their founding by the American Indian Movement in 1972 until their closure, the Minneapolis school closing in 1995 and the St. Paul school in 2008. Both schools got some funding from the federal government's 1972 Indian Education Act; however, in the early 1980s that support "evaporated" under President Ronald Reagan. These schools were somewhat representative of some 16 survival schools founded around the same time across the US and Canada. Their beginnings lay in the failure that many Indian students experienced in public schools that did not reflect Indian culture. Students tended to be "troubled, alienated Indian youth" whom staff worked with to provide "meaning for their lives." The schools supported student political activism and were part of an effort at decolonization. The schools faced inadequate funding, high staff turnover, and accusations of mismanagement, cronyism, and nepotism. Davis concludes that survival schools helped make students "relatively resistant to the problems that continue to plague young Native people in the United States, such as high dropout, suicide, and teen pregnancy rates." **Summing Up:** Recommended. Graduate and research collections. -- *J. A. Reyhner, Northern Arizona University*

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Information & Computer Science

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The following review appeared in the April 2014 issue of CHOICE:

51-4485 HM742 2013-10193 MARC
Mejias, Ulises Ali. **Off the network: disrupting the digital world.** Minnesota, 2013. 193p bibl index afp (Electronic mediations, 1) ISBN 9780816678990, \$67.50; ISBN 9780816679003 pbk, \$22.50

This work purports to uncover and critique the hidden logic of the Internet. Like any technology, the Internet fosters certain kinds of activities and enables new ones, but diminishes others; it elevates some skills and relations while rendering others secondary or obsolete. According to Mejias (communication studies, SUNY Oswego), the meme of a network of nodes intrinsically promotes a hierarchical and controlling structure, reflected in the dominance of a small number of particularly influential sites. Though some have seen decentralization and even democratic empowerment in the structure of the Internet, Mejias sees centralization and reinforcement of economic and political power structures. The descriptions and analyses make extensive use of technical theories from the social sciences that somewhat limit the potential audience, but it is a welcome counter to all-too-common platitudes and bromides praising the Internet. Readers may question whether the author has too readily adopted the perspective of the large Internet content providers as descriptive of the Internet itself. But if people are to make technologies serve genuinely liberating human ends, they must understand what tugs in darker directions. *Off the Network* contributes to that understanding. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Graduate students, researchers/faculty, and professionals. -- *D. Bantz, University of Alaska*

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Political Science - Political Theory

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The following review appeared in the April 2014 issue of CHOICE:

51-4709 K1315 2013-10385 CIP
Barkan, Joshua. **Corporate sovereignty: law and government under capitalism.** Minnesota, 2013. 243p index afp
ISBN 9780816674268, \$95.00; ISBN 9780816674275 pbk, \$25.00

A revised doctoral dissertation, this wide-ranging intellectual history seeks to revise conventional views of corporations in Western law. Western scholarship tends to frame corporate responsibility as a contest between states and markets, or between governments and corporations. On this view, the former are public and "political" while the latter are allegedly private actors seeking profit and needing to be restrained. But Barkan (geography, Univ. of Georgia) argues that these categories obfuscate the power of corporations in the legal framework of modern capitalism. His "genealogy" points out that corporations received charters from the state as "sovereign gifts." Yet, paradoxically, the corporation also is a form of private property and an entity with its own legal personhood. After chapters on these topics, the focus shifts to the place of corporations "outside" the framework of international law, which is based on territorial sovereignty. Chapters on corporate responsibility and the corporate university (the weakest chapter) are followed with a brief conclusion. While the argument can be abstract at times, the prose is generally clear. Students of political economy, history, legal scholarship, or political theory would benefit from engaging this provocative work. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduate, graduate, and research collections. -- *S. Waalkes, Malone University*