

participate in local struggles against neoliberal policy and are perplexed by community members' disinterest in their participation.

This Is Our School! is an important contribution both to the sociology of education and to the literature on social movements and dynamics. It is also exemplary in qualitative methodology. I recommend it to scholars working in these fields and professors teaching (upper-division) undergraduate and graduate students.

Best Laid Plans: Women Coming of Age in Uncertain Times, by **Jessica Halliday Hardie**. Oakland: University of California Press, 2022. 274 pp. \$29.95 paper. ISBN: 9780520297883.

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In the time of unprecedented global uncertainty that we are experiencing today, the life trajectories of youth coming of age is of particular interest. How can we ensure young people are given equal opportunities to succeed as they transition into adulthood? Social conditions undoubtedly affect the experiences of youths transitioning into adulthood and life opportunities available to them. Yet at the individual level there is also a focus on the aspirations and ability of young people to plan well for their futures. The neoliberal perspective tends to focus on the abilities of individuals to beat the odds. Can young people plan well enough to ensure their success? A more balanced conversation would then expand into the interaction between the social and the individual in understanding the outcomes of youth coming of age.

Jessica Halliday Hardie's *Best Laid Plans: Women Coming of Age in Uncertain Times* is a relevant reference to discuss. The book presents an exploration of the nexus between young women's aspirations and future educational and career plans and the structures that then influence the trajectories of their lives. It is based on a study conducted with young women from different social classes in the United States during the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009. While

it may not be reflective or representative of the global context nor the contemporary state, the book is a valuable and notable reference to a perspective of observation and analysis.

Best Laid Plans presents the findings of a 5-year research project that began with interviewing 61 high school girls with an initial interest to work within the health field from middle-class, working-class, and poor backgrounds from what Hardie describes as "rust-belt" states. Hardie then returns after five or six years to reinterview 41 of the young women. *Best Laid Plans* establishes that its focus is to investigate how the instability of this time period alters the options and future trajectories of young people through the structures of social class, race, and gender.

Structurally, *Best Laid Plans* is divided into two main parts with seven chapters, excluding the introduction and the conclusion. The introduction and conclusion allow the reader to explore the gist of the research and Hardie's theoretical discussions. Within the middle chapters, Hardie weaves through the lives of her participants, demonstrating to readers the dynamic interaction of the personal and institutional in their transition to adulthood. Predictably, in the earlier chapters Hardie presents her findings on the young women's plans for their future, which Hardie termed as a "packaged future" among the middle-class girls and "repackaged future" among the working-class and poor girls. In the later middle chapters we find Hardie's categorization of three of the pathways her participants experienced: on track, holding on, and navigating rough seas. Within the book, Hardie offered several diagrams to simplify some of the analysis, but I think it would have been helpful and interesting to find a more illustrative summary each of the participant's profiles so the reader can easily refer back as we navigate through the book.

Best Laid Plans is written in accessible language and is a text that can be appreciated by those outside the field; and even though there are field-specific references, the footnotes provide some clarity to the reader. While limited to the Introduction and Conclusion, Hardie brings in a range of

sociological theories and research, making the text a worthy reference for relevant courses in sociology of youth and the life-course. The text would be a valuable reference to researchers in the areas of inequalities, gender, social class, youth, and coming of age.

The main thesis of *Best Laid Plans* argues that tangible and intangible resources are as important to consider as the ability to plan in gauging likelihood of success for young women transitioning to adulthood. Hardie focuses on answering this central question of how social structures truly affect the experiences and outcomes beyond the young women's planning strategies. As young people navigate the labor market and educational landscape, they not only need a well-considered plan, but they also depend on the resources available to them.

In the early chapters of *Best Laid Plans*, the reader is directed to observe the relationship between social class and race in terms of young women's aspirations and plans for their future. Hardie considers their aspirations to be similar regardless of their socioeconomic background: to have a prototypical middle-class life with a happy family, good education, and a stable career. However, social class differences distinguished the aspirations and experiences of the young women. Hardie then demonstrates how both the mental maps are affected as well as how instability is experienced among the working-class and poor young women. Throughout *Best Laid Plans* we find a conversation about gender, demonstrating how care work and family life are a significant aspect of not only the future but also navigating the transition, especially for the working-class and poor girls.

Even though Hardie repeats her focus on race as part of her observation and analysis, to this reader it felt rather limited. There was very little said in the concluding remarks on how race mattered in the transition to adulthood. Understandably, Hardie's participants were white and black Americans, but I think it is relevant to discuss at least in the Introduction and Conclusion the broader perspective given the diversity of the society.

Overall, *Best Laid Plans* provides an important reference to the significant relationship

between young women's plans and aspirations and the social structures they live within in predicting their life outcomes through uncertain times—specifically, demonstrating how social structures such as class, gender, and race manifest themselves within young women's plans and their early adulthood trajectories navigating higher education and the labor market. Young women's career choices are made within the confines of their social structures and undeniably their economic and social resources as well as their cultural schemas profoundly influence the outcomes of their early adulthood lives.

Forbidden Intimacies: Polygamies at the Limits of Western Tolerance, by **Melanie Heath**. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2023. 292 pp. \$28.00 paper. ISBN: 9781503634251.

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Westerners have become increasingly tolerant of nontraditional forms of intimacy. The list now includes cohabitation between unmarried partners, same-gender unions, and, to an increasing extent, open relationships. But there is one glaring exception to this trend: the vast majority of western people continue to disapprove of polygamy—that is, a marriage that unites three or more people, usually meaning one man and two or more wives. In fact, western intolerance toward polygamy is such that most governments strictly forbid the practice. For example, in the United States, polygamy is illegal in all 50 states, including in the Rocky Mountain states, where as many as 50,000 people are estimated to live in such relationships. The criminalization of polygamous marriage stands in stark contrast with the treatment of other unconventional intimacies, including same-gender unions, which have gained legal recognition in recent years.

In the book *Forbidden Intimacies: Polygamies at the Limits of Western Tolerance*, sociologist Melanie Heath investigates the seemingly paradoxical status of polygamy in the contemporary West. Her book pays particular