Urban Ethnography

Legacies and Challenges

Research in Urban Sociology

Richard E. Ocejo

About the Book

Urban ethnography has produced some of the most influential and memorable studies in sociology since the discipline’s founding. Showcasing the ideas, analysis, and perspectives of experts in the method conducting research on a wide array of social phenomena in a variety of city contexts, this volume provides a look at the legacies of urban ethnography’s methodological traditions and some of the challenges its practitioners face today.

This volume considers the ongoing influence of esteemed scholars in the famed ‘Chicago School’ in teaching ethnography and mentoring young ethnographers. In doing this it addresses the numerous definitions of space and place that ethnographers grapple with, considers the social and spatial locations in which research is conducted, and examines the intertwined forms of social identity that shape the relationships that scholars form in the field, as well as the data they produce. In addition to these themes, the authors in this volume also consider the importance of taking a global perspective when conducting local fieldwork, and of taking an intersectional approach to reflexivity and analysis.

Mixing self-reflection, practical guidance, theoretical engagement, empirical analysis, and even humor, the chapter authors offer a large slice of what ethnography has to offer for understanding the global urban world.

Format: Hardback
Pagination: 232
Price: £75.00 $105.00 €90.00
Publication Date: 22nd Oct 2019
ISBN: 9781787690349

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