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Main content

Article Preview :

MARGARET K. NELSON and JOAN SMITH, *Working Hard and Making Do: Surviving in Small Town America*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, Calif.: University of California Press, Ltd., 1999, x + 279 P., \$16.95 (U.S.) paper.

Working Hard and Making Do is a compelling and poignant book based on extensive research on how the degradation of work affects survival strategies for working-class families. Nelson and Smith offer a significant contribution by examining how access to good jobs or bad jobs shapes survival strategies and gender relations and, in turn, how people construct attitudes to work and politics in relationship to their involvement in various kinds of paid and unpaid work.

They reject the theoretical connotations of voluntarism, rationality, consensus and fairness, which are often associated with the concepts of households and families. Instead, their work is based on the assumption that the context of the household shapes and constrains options available to household members with the result that actions are forced choices and that sharing between family members may be unfair and inequitable.

The authors used two traditional techniques to gather data on the consequences of recent forms of restructuring: face-to-face interviews with a snowball sample of 117 individuals representing 81 different households and a randomly sampled telephone survey of 158 households. Based on labour force participation, households were divided into "good job" or "bad job" households. At least one...

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Favorit Ask a Native New Yorker: Hard-Earned Advice on Surviving and Thriving in the. manderem. 0:35. Full version Ask a Native New Yorker: Hard-Earned Advice on Surviving and Thriving in the Big. Madhavideger. 0:23. Buy a cheap copy of Working Hard and Making Do: Surviving in book by Joan Smith. The economic recovery of the 1990s brought with it a surge of new jobs, but the prospects for most working Americans improved little. Family income rose only Free shipping over \$10. As a result of hard schlorship on the part of Smith and Nelson we have a unvarnished and well researched story of what goes on behind the Norman Rockwell postcard towns here in Vermont. It is a bitter lesson that we had all better head and it is one that regional differences is repeated throughout Rural America. With the hindsight of Seattle eariler this month Smith and Nelson might have written an even more forcful tomb. Home. Journals. Work, Employment and Society. Volume 15 Issue 1. Working Hard and Making Do: Sur English | Français. Work, Employment and Society. Article. Article. Working Hard and Making Do: Surviving in Small Town America, Margaret K. Nelson and Joan Smith, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1999, x+279 pp. SUSAN BAINES (a1). (a1). How does one compensat for the areas of the heart and soul which will be lost forever when that last box of memories have been packed up and placed in the pickup truck? — Marge Keller, Midwest. You don't have to go far to find opportunity. I was born in a tiny central Illinois town. Immigrants make huge and often dangerous journeys to improve their chances and those of their children. You don't have to move to the biggest cities. There are many small and midsize cities that offer much better education and job opportunities. Small-town factories kept rural areas afloat for a while but were among the first to close in the '70s and '80s. At the same time, the farms kept getting bigger. We are seeing the culmination of all that now. How to fix it?