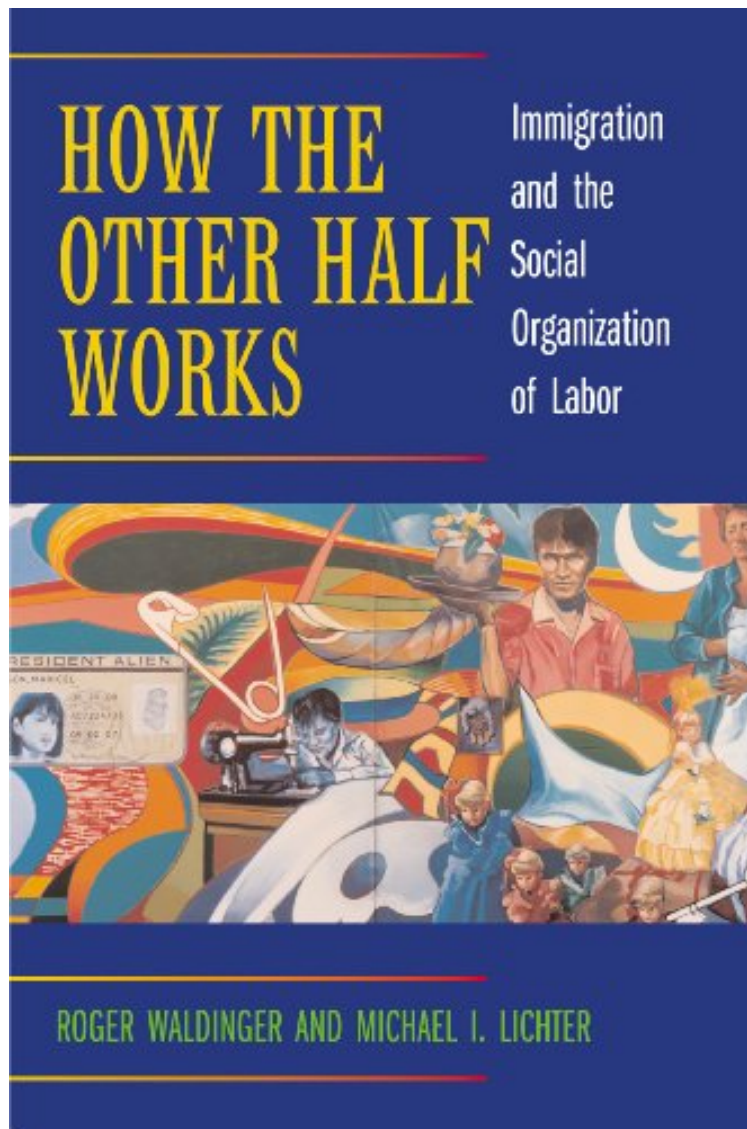


How the Other Half Works: Immigration and the Social Organization of Labor

Roger Waldinger, Michael I. Lichter
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StarsBy Javier M Delgadogood price, fast delivery

How the Other Half Works solves the riddle of America's contemporary immigration puzzle: why an increasingly high-tech society has use for so many immigrants who lack the basic skills that today's economy seems to demand. In clear and engaging style, Waldinger and Lichter isolate the key factors that explain the presence of unskilled immigrants in our midst. Focusing on Los Angeles, the capital of today's immigrant America, this hard-hitting book elucidates the other side of the new economy, showing that hiring is finding not so much "one's own kind" but rather the "right kind" to fit the demeaning, but indispensable, jobs many American workers disdain.

From Library Journal This meticulously researched survey explores the paradox of how large numbers of low-skilled immigrants were absorbed into the complex American economy of the 1990s, which required a more highly skilled and educated workforce than ever before. Waldinger (sociology, UCLA), the prize-winning author of *Still the Promised City? African-Americans and New Immigrants in Postindustrial New York*, and Lichter (sociology, SUNY at Buffalo) conducted their study in California, America's new immigrant capital. They used a comparative case-study approach and performed open-ended interviews with managers/owners in six industries in 1992-94. Their analysis yields a "story" divided into three sections focusing on the nature of low-skilled work, the means whereby social networks and formal hiring practices affect who gets jobs, and the way ethnic preferences and conflict are revealed in the workplace. A key conclusion is that immigrants obtain jobs at the bottom of America's economy because employers perceive them as "different" and more suited to demeaning work than others. Discussions are rigorous and grounded in sociological theories of labor, migration, and ethnicity, which the authors successfully critique and expand. This notable contribution is highly recommended for academic collections.

Antoinette Brinkman, M.L.S.,
Evansville, IN Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "[An] authoritative study of Los Angeles's low-wage labor market. . . . Drawing upon a mountain of data, the book documents the process by which immigrants have come to dominate some employment niches in L.A. Along the way, Waldinger and Lichter explode any illusion that today's employers seek to empower workers in the service sector, where the labor market may be fluid but hierarchies are scarcely flat."--Joseph A. McCartin, "Washington Post Book World From the Inside Flap" In this masterpiece of field research into the social processes that structure America's economy, Waldinger and Lichter unveil the most original and powerful theory ever advanced to explain how 'unskilled' immigrants have come to work at remarkably high rates while inner city blacks continue to languish. Like Wilson's *When Work Disappears* and Massey and Denton's *American Apartheid*, *How the Other Half Works* will set the stage for a new era of poverty research. In its focus on Los Angeles as the quintessential suburban metropolis and as an exemplar of multi-ethnic America, it may also one day be seen as the founding text in a new LA School of Urban Sociology."--Mitchell Duneier, author of *Sidewalk and Slim's Table* How the Other Half Works is unreservedly one of the most important works on immigration and its relation to the social nature of work in contemporary America. Addressing several of the most vexing 'race' and labor issues of our time, it offers original and persuasive answers that challenge the prevailing wisdom of economists. Grounded in the best tradition of empirical sociology, the work is richly documented, vigorously argued, and clearly presented. With this landmark study, Roger Waldinger (working in tandem with co-author Michael Lichter) confirms his stature as the nation's leading sociologist of immigration."--Orlando Patterson, author of *The Ordeal of Integration: Progress and Resentment in America's "Racial" Crisis* Based on detailed interviews with a sample of employers of low-wage labor in six Los Angeles industries, Waldinger and Lichter provide a vivid and informative account of social dynamics at the bottom of the labor market. The book builds and extends prior theories of immigration and labor and makes a compelling case for why a sociological standpoint is indispensable for the analysis of these processes."--Alejandro Portes, co-author of *Ethnicities: Children of Immigrants in America* Waldinger and Lichter offer a lucid and penetrating look at the micro-social structure of hiring, firing, and earning in the modern, post-industrial economy. This book should be required reading for people who glibly use the term 'free market.'"--Douglas S. Massey, Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania