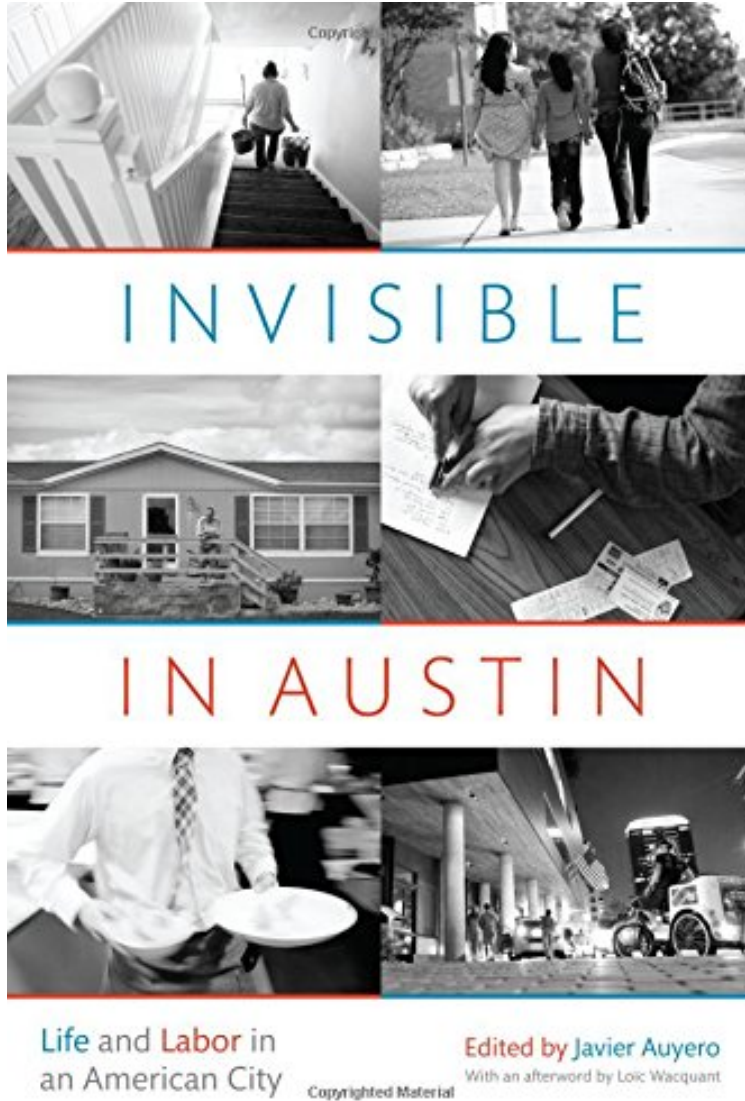


(Read now) Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City

Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City

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From Ingramcontent : Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. pushing out the working poor or making their lives harder- not to mentionBy kathcptxA hard book to read because it chronicles hard-working people at the bottom of the income scale. I know the goal was to report the issues andnot offer solutions. As a result, it seems rather hopeless. But as a long-term Austin area resident, I see that the ridiculous growth has in many ways caused these issues. Housing costs rise,

pushing out the working poor or making their lives harder- not to mention, traffic worse! We are killing the very things that made Austin weird (or desirable) in the first place! It seems we are destined to become a city primarily made up of young urban dwellers who have sufficient income. Heaven help the service industry workers! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By YVONNE Very interesting read! Thanks. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Austin, it's more than just about music, bars/restaurants, and partying. By Gracie Altobelli This book was required for my Social Scientific Imagination class at UT Austin. Ironically enough, the man who headed the creation of this book was also my professor for the class and my T.A. was one who wrote one of the stories/chapters. It was lovely to meet most of the authors in class when reading this book. A lot of these stories really opened my eyes to mistreatment people received just because of their background and who they were physically, which also frustrated me. It amazed and inspired me how each one of them did something to change their life for the better and didn't just mope around and be mr./mrs. Pessimistic. I highly recommend taking time to read this book and really get a glimpse of some Austinites and some of the background of Austin, that tours that you may go on, won't mention.

Austin, Texas, is renowned as a high-tech, fast-growing city for the young and creative, a cool place to live, and the scene of internationally famous events such as SXSW and Formula 1. But as in many American cities, poverty and penury are booming along with wealth and material abundance in contemporary Austin. Rich and poor residents lead increasingly separate lives as growing socioeconomic inequality underscores residential, class, racial, and ethnic segregation. In *Invisible in Austin*, the award-winning sociologist Javier Auyero and a team of graduate students explore the lives of those working at the bottom of the social order: house cleaners, office-machine repairers, cab drivers, restaurant cooks and dishwashers, exotic dancers, musicians, and roofers, among others. Recounting their subjects' life stories with empathy and sociological insight, the authors show us how these lives are driven by a complex mix of individual and social forces. These poignant stories compel us to see how poor people who provide indispensable services for all city residents struggle daily with substandard housing, inadequate public services and schools, and environmental risks. Timely and essential reading, *Invisible in Austin* makes visible the growing gap between rich and poor that is reconfiguring the cityscape of one of America's most dynamic places, as low-wage workers are forced to the social and symbolic margins.

"Sociologist Auyero and his graduate students at the University of Texas at Austin deliver exceptional in-depth longitudinal studies of 11 people living in precarious social and economic conditions in their city. Lucid and empathetic, these insightful portraits reveal how life histories are intertwined with political and economic forces beyond any individual's control." (Publishers Weekly, starred review 2015-06-15) "Engaging and accessible, the essays dovetail with today's debates on social inequality and immigration. A scholarly study conducted with dignity and thoroughness." (Kirkus 2015-05-20) "These intimate, uniformly affecting profiles reveal how thoroughly Texas's historic disregard for fair labor practices and basic social services pervades the lives of today's working poor." (Texas Monthly) "serves as a testament to the value, continued relevance, and vital results of the application of the sociological imagination in efforts to better understand in context the diverse array of human lives that keep a metropolis humming, as well as a reminder of the costs to those who are pushed to the side as cities pursue economic development and experience rapid change." (Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare 2016-12-01) "A captivating study of urban life for the disadvantaged. Poignant portraits of inequality and social exclusion are provided through the eyes of the dispossessed, portraits of survival in a brutal social environment. And Javier Auyero and his colleagues expertly illuminate the conditions that foster such economic instability and social insecurity. This unique book is a must-read for individuals and policy makers seeking a deeper understanding of the growing inequality in urban America." (William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor, Harvard University) "Who does the hard work that keeps groovy Austin going, and what does it feel like? These multidimensional life stories show us that it's a diverse group, but almost everyone has come from elsewhere to chase the Austin Dream, with its glimmers of postindustrial pleasure and promise. From the chicken-processing plant to the strip club, from the delight of intoxication and the simulation of aspirational class ascendancy in the glamour zone of glitzy hotels, to the mundane daily routines and bodily brutality of addiction, accidents and injuries, it's a hard fall and a revolving door of disappointments. Kudos to Javier Auyero and the talented group at the UT Austin sociology ethnography lab for bringing back from margin to center the life story method and workers' everyday struggles and for keeping alive the promise of the sociological imagination." (Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, author of *Paradise Transplanted: Migration and the Making of California Gardens*) "A captivating study of urban life for the disadvantaged. Poignant portraits of inequality and social exclusion are provided through the eyes of the dispossessed, portraits of survival in a brutal social environment. And Javier Auyero and his colleagues expertly illuminate the conditions that foster such economic instability and social insecurity. This unique book is a must-read for individuals and policy makers seeking a deeper understanding of the growing inequality in urban America." (William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor, Harvard University) "Who does the hard work that keeps groovy Austin going, and what does it

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About the Author Javier Auyero is the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Professor in Latin American Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, where he directs the Urban Ethnography Lab. He is the author of five previous books, including the award-winning *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown* (with Dbora Swistun).