

GEO 106 – HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
Journal Review Assignment

For your assignment you will be writing a *Review* of a peer-reviewed academic journal article. You may select any Human Geography topic you desire from class (see the Contents page v. - xi). Search either the topic using only academic journals or browse certain academic journals for topics of interest. In your writing make sure that you follow the *Guidelines for Writing*.

Review

A *Review* is comprised of two parts: a summary of the article, followed by your critical assessment of what was presented. The **summary** component is approximately 75% of the *Review* and includes the following:

- *Goals / Objectives*: What is the purpose of the article? What does it attempt to solve, determine, or demonstrate?
- *Data*: Which data are assessed or analyzed to determine if the goals / objectives are met?
- *Methods*: What specific methodology is used to analyze the data in the context of the goals?
- *Analysis / Conclusion*: What resulted from methods being applied to the data? What do the author(s) conclude from the analysis; or how do they interpret the analysis / results?

Your **critical review** of the article will include the following:

- *Assessment*: Where the goals and objectives clearly stated? Did the goals match the methods and results? Was it easy to follow?
- *Importance*: What, in your view, is the importance of this research? What impact does knowing this have on geography?
- *Improvement*: What, if anything, could the author(s) have done to improve the article?
- *Reaction*: What is your opinion of the research conducted?

GEO 106 – HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
Journal Review: Guidelines for Writing

The following are general *Guidelines for Writing*. Keep them in mind when writing your reviews (or any academic paper for that matter).

CONTRACTIONS - ~~Don't Use'em!~~

SOURCES – Use Literature Review to Support your Research.

- Schroeder (2012) states... [paraphrase but do not use a direct quote unless you cite].
- Meints et al. (2010) note... [when there are 3 or more authors use 1st author plus *et al.*]
- Spilker (2011) finds...suggests...indicates...

cool

∩ = **Insert Word(s)**; Geography is a discipline

PREPOSITION – use sparingly, eliminate if possible; ~~end of sentence.~~

WC = Word Choice

PUNCTUATION - .” ,”

Young Men's Christian Association (**YMCA**), University of Nebraska at Kearney (**UNK**)

¶ = New Paragraph

CITATIONS – use direct quotes; provide Author, Date + Page; **Combs (2012: 14)**

SYMBOLS - # %

- Normally use **numerals** when giving percent and do not use the “%” symbol [e.g. 55 percent]
- Numbers 0 – 99 Spell them out; [e.g. seventy-six]
- Numbers 100 and above use numerals;

VERBS

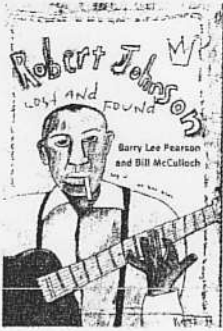
- **Strong Verbs (yes)**
- **Weak Verbs (no)**; ~~Can be; Should be; might be~~
- **In conjunction with prepositions:** ~~it might be the cause of...~~

TOPIC SENTENCES – are like LEGOS

- **Sets up paragraph**
- ~~No Citations; No Fact~~ [save those for the main body]

GOAL

- Should not be the **number** of words but the **fewest** words.
- ~~Very; really; people that who~~



A much-compressed summary would note that the legend began in the 1930s, before Johnson's death in 1938, with laudatory notices in northern journals associated with the political left. Factual errors abound, Johnson is seen as another Leadbelly, only more authentic, and his music is understood as a rural precursor of jazz. The 1940s and 1950s add a dark supernaturalism to the portrait, presenting Johnson as a "lonely, ragged, bedeviled figure" (p. 22) who "seemed emotionally disturbed by images of the devil" (p. 25). Then in the 1960s and 1970s, accompanying the LP reissue of Johnson's recordings, the legend achieves full flower, adding the capstone element of a full-bore Faustian bargain--the poor bluesman selling his soul to Satan Himself in exchange for a skill in musicianship unobtainable by less drastic means.

Later refinements are most minor--appreciators of African elements in African American culture substitute Legba for the European Satan as the crossroads figure, and Johnson is by the 1980s more often lauded as a pioneer rocker than a primitive jazzman. The new millennium opens with Johnson firmly enshrined as the best-known traditional blues musician in the country, with at least two novels, three documentary films, and a Grammy-winning reissue of his complete recorded repertoire to his credit.

Turning to the man behind all this hype and frenzy, Pearson and McCulloch insist that he is most appropriately understood as a modestly successful blues musician, recognized as such by his peers and his audiences, "who stuck to the road and hung out with other musicians" (p. 111). He made records, even had one modest seller ("Terraplane Blues"), but he was primarily "an African American street performer" (p. 110) whose repertoire, words and music, are a "reflection of blues tradition, African American vernacular, and Johnson's well-honed talents as an artist and showman" (p. 86). Within this analysis, the much-celebrated references to the devil are part of a much larger "minicraze of devil songs" (p. 66) in the late 1930s and early forties.

Pearson and McCulloch have done their work carefully and well; their portrait of Johnson offers a

powerful corrective to the legend-building excesses of other writers (Alan Lomax's *The Land Where the Blues Began* [1993] comes across as an especially egregious exercise in fantasy and self-promotion). At times the tone of arraignment seems a bit excessive--especially since Pearson and McCulloch are themselves simply the latest in the long line of Johnson appreciators they chronicle so assiduously, with cherished romantic narratives of their own (Johnson as a "notorious womanizer" [p. 107] is a particular favorite). When you have an author billing himself as Windy City Slim, you know you're deep in the bluesman dream. But that's Robert Johnson--the voice, the guitar, the long spidery fingers in the spiffy photographs--he stays with us, pulls us in, makes us add our own dreams and visions to the mix. Cheers for Pearson and McCulloch--for this reader their book joins Peter Guralnick's *Searching for Robert Johnson* and Greil Marcus's *Mystery Train* as the best efforts in a crowded field.

--Robert Cochran



Southern Music/American Music. Revised edition. By Bill C. Malone and David Stricklin. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2003. Pp. xi + 236, preface to the revised edition, introduction, conclusion, notes, bibliographical sources, suggested listening, index, photographs. \$24.00, paper)

When it was first published twenty-five years ago, *Southern Music/American Music* set the standard for scholarship that links Southern regional musical traditions to wider patterns of American musical history. Bill Malone convincingly demonstrated the value of studying the history of vernacular music, with a special emphasis on genres such as barrelhouse piano, old-time fiddling, honky-tonk, western swing, and bluegrass that were often denigrated in serious cultural criticism. In subsequent scholarship, Malone has continued to explore grassroots and popular music, thereby contributing to scholarship on America's social history, folklore, and ethnomusicology. Recently, Malone collaborated with David Stricklin to revise his classic work, and this expanded edition updates his

important research as it brings an essential work on American regional history back in print.

Malone and Stricklin develop their argument that musical forms created or nurtured by Southerners are the bases for virtually every style of American popular music. They are making a strong claim. Their argument could be qualified by recognizing that certain forms of Southern music, such as old-time fiddling and string band music, were also popular in other American regions prior to the twentieth century. Placing aside these quibbles by focusing on major music contributions such as blues, gospel, jazz, Cajun, Zydeco, Tejano, bluegrass, and a plethora of other forms, Malone and Stricklin provide a history that shows how Southern music unquestionably is the major component of the roots for rock, country, and most other popular music forms.

They trace the lineage of contemporary music to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century folk music traditions, and the book's first two chapters provide an insightful and succinct overview of early folk music traditions in America. They then examine how continuity and change within social life and cultural history are related to major shifts in the popularity of musical genres. Malone and Stricklin provide especially strong discussions of relationships between Southern regional identity and the marketing of musical expression through mass media. The authors' analysis of marketing plans, advertisements, radio shows, concert promotion, movies, and television programs clearly supports the central argument that America's music is deeply rooted in Southern vernacular traditions.

The scholarship in *Southern Music/American Music* is augmented by numerous recent studies of blues, gospel, old-time fiddling, bluegrass, jazz, and other popular genres, including Malone's major work, *Country Music USA*. The revisions in Malone and Stricklin's new publication include a thorough discussion of recent revivals and innovations within traditional music and a consideration of the increased appeal of acoustic music through movies such as *Songcatcher*, *Oh Brother Where Art Thou?*, and *Down from the Mountain*. Their reading of the current mixture of mass media exposure and grassroots musical revivalism shows how contemporary interest in roots music reflects a longstanding historical patterns that link the South with a sense of America's musical identity.

As an overview of American folk and popular

music, *Southern Music/American Music* is an engaging and remarkably thorough history. Although the book could benefit from extended analysis of the musical innovations and the song lyrics Malone and Stricklin discuss, these shortcomings are remedied by the book's excellent bibliography and discography. These reference materials are essential for anyone new to the scholarship on traditional and popular music. Their encyclopedic breadth of knowledge about American musical history is matched--even exceeded--by the depth of their appreciation for excellent recordings. This new edition of *Southern Music/American Music* will continue to provide insight into major cultural contributions from America's South.

--Gregory Hansen



***St. Joseph Altars*. Photography and text by Kerri McCaffety. (Gretna, LA: Pelican, 2003. Pp. 143, acknowledgments, introduction, bibliography, index. \$23.00, cloth)**

St. Joseph Altars is an exploration of the most famous Italian-Catholic custom: the festival of St. Joseph, which originated when a severe famine during the Middle Ages struck the Italian island of Sicily. People turned to St. Joseph and prayed for salvation. When their prayers were answered, the Sicilians began celebrating the saint's feast day on 19 March with display and blessing of food. The tradition of preparing the altar as a symbol of devotion to St. Joseph continues today among Italian Americans to give thanks for good fortune, to collect donations for the poor, or just to bring the community together.

Drawing on a broad range of photographs, McCaffety shows how images can express and actually help the reader find out more about practices and cultures of other people. In addition, the text, which accompanies the photos, describes the legend of St. Joseph and the symbolism of the altars and of the foods. A substantial part of the book is devoted to recipes for some of the most popular dishes found on the altars, which complete the visual tour through this exquisite Italian tradition.

The reader surely will be fascinated with the colors, the shapes, and the variety of food prepared

tion tinsmith, and Jelly Roll Morton's father was a bricklayer. Just as New Orleans jazz has undergone a series of revivals, so the building arts are enjoying a transformation. Spitzer challenges society's past marginalizing of the craftsman, arguing that the building arts "must be seen in a new 21st century light that attracts the young to the dignity of the work" (p. 127). C. Ray Brassieur describes the collection of oral narratives of craftsmen, based on fifty-five interviews, housed in The Special Collections of the Earl K. Long Library at the University of New Orleans. In a final essay, Laura R. Westbrook reproduces some of the quotations from these transcripts, noting that through them "one gains a better understanding of social, occupational, and physical changes in the city over the course of the last century" (p. 136).

The "building" that is this catalog and exhibition is evenly proportioned in its texts, its gorgeous photography provided by Neil Alexander, and its narratives by the building artists themselves. A minor weakness of the structure lies in the "nuts and bolts"--the grammar and mechanics--of some of the essays, which are nevertheless rich in sound scholarship and colorful appeal.

--Chance Harvey



Catfishing in the South. By Jeff Samsel. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. Pp. xxviii + 179, Series Editor's Foreword, preface, acknowledgments, introduction, appendices, illustrations. \$19.95, paper)

Jeff Samsel captured the essence of catfishing in the South, ran it through a word processor, and produced a book about catching catfish that is truly informative and useful. I have been pursuing Mr. Whiskers for about fifty years. I believe the book has valuable insights for every Southern catfisherman from a beginner to a seasoned veteran of fifty years or more.

Written in plain simple English that makes for easy reading, the book details the different species of catfish, where to catch catfish, the bait and tackle most often used to catch catfish, a variety of strategies for catching catfish, and specifics about what every fisherman wants to know most of all:

"tell me about the honey holes"!!

Seasoned veterans will probably give chapters one, two and three only a quick glance and go straight for the chapters on strategies and hotspots in hopes of learning a new way to catch catfish and a new place to drag the boat. Some may be disappointed because GPS coordinates are not given. But those disappointed are probably the same who when asked where they caught the mess of catfish on their stringer will reply, "In the mouth."

Beginners should pay careful attention to the first three chapters, which provide excellent descriptions and details about the kinds of catfish, where to find them, and the bait and tackle needed to make pursuing catfish a lifetime experience.

The pictures are varied: everything from a youngster with what may be his first catfish to world-record catfish hanging on a tree. Catfishermen see the world in color so some color pictures within the body of the text may have added to the overall appeal of the book.

I read the book through twice and did not find any mention of one of the most popular methods of catching catfish in the South. My sincere apologies to the author if it's there and my old eyes just failed to see. This method is called "snagging." Snagging involves large treble hooks and a four- to eight-ounce weight tied on the end of the line. The line is cast as far as possible and then jerked hard a number of times until the end of the line is back to the fisherman. Snagging may have been omitted intentionally because most catfish purists don't consider this method an acceptable way to catch catfish. However, on most any given day, below Lock and Dam Number 2 on the Arkansas River near Tichnor, Arkansas, you will likely see as many people snagging as you will see people bait fishing. I tried snagging once but quickly figured out it was more work than chasing down a pack of rabbit dogs that jumped and ran four deer into the next county. When I go fishing, I don't like to work; I like to enjoy my time in the outdoors. Snagging may not be a part of catfishing for the purist, but snagging is most definitely a part of catfishing in the South.

Overall, this book about catfishing in the South will most definitely make a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in the what, when, where, why, and how of catching catfish.

--W. Terry Dancer

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BOOK REVIEWS

Wal-Mart World: The World's Biggest Corporation in the Global Economy. Stanley D. Brunn, ed. New York: Routledge, 2006. xiv and 410 pp., maps, photos, notes, bibliog., and index. \$27.95 paper (ISBN 0-415-95137-2).

Reviewed by Thomas O. Graff, Department of Geosciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

This volume is a compilation of twenty-five manuscripts by forty-two scholars focusing on Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. The authors represent a wide variety of disciplines including geography (with several fields of specialization), economics, sociology, marketing, international relations, law, and so forth. Originally, this reviewer was to be a contributor, but withdrew over concerns that errors contained in earlier versions of some of the chapters would escape the editorial process. Fortunately, many of the errors have been eliminated in the published edition.

In 2004, Dr. Stanley Brunn participated in two interdisciplinary conferences focusing on globalization of the world economy and Wal-Mart. For a firm of its size and impact, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has been the subject of remarkably little scholarly investigation (Fishman 2006, 140–41). Dr. Brunn concluded that an edited volume devoted to the various facets of Wal-Mart would be worthwhile. He invited scholars from these conferences and others to contribute to this volume, and the result is a significant addition to the literature focusing on Wal-Mart. It includes some scholarly analyses, as well as opinions and observations.

Though almost 80 percent of Wal-Mart's sales are in the United States, much of this volume focuses on Wal-Mart's international efforts. In addition, many other themes are explored, on topics as varied as Wal-Mart's legal issues, Wal-Mart's signage, and the political persuasions of Wal-Mart's consumers and markets. Three major limitations detract from the usefulness of this book: (1) no representative of Wal-Mart participated in the development of this volume, (2) Wal-Mart is presently undergoing such a rapid transformation that scholarly

analyses of the firm are out-of-date by the time they appear in print, and (3) Wal-Mart is such a large and complex firm that it is impossible for an outsider to know what is happening in all parts of the firm. The most critical of these limitations is the lack of Wal-Mart corporate participation in the development of this book.

Traditionally, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has been uncooperative with academics trying to analyze the firm. Now, as the largest retailer in the world, the firm is facing critical scrutiny on a wide variety of fronts, and its first reaction to such analyses often has been defensiveness. Though it is far more open than in the past, it has shown a reluctance to participate in studies in which it does not control the final product. Many controversial issues about Wal-Mart, including international expansion problems, countless court cases, relationships with vendors, employment practices, environmental issues, and philanthropic activities, are examined in this book and merit comment from the corporation. Dr. Brunn attempted to get corporate input, and the fact that a corporate perspective is not available here is the result of Wal-Mart's choice.

Corporate cooperation could have removed some of the internal inconsistencies of this volume. In the first chapter, Hugill observes that Wal-Mart and Woolworth's had their greatest international financial successes in Britain (p. 11). Burk and Sparks describe the recent massive reorganization and cost-cutting moves of the British Wal-Mart entry, as it has struggled to maintain market share in the competitive grocery British market (pp. 253–60). Later, Biles refers to Mexico as perhaps Wal-Mart's most successful international effort (p. 343). Similarly, several contributors mention a lack of environmental concerns by Wal-Mart. Yet Wang and Zhang observe that Wal-Mart of China refused to consider most Chinese suppliers over environmental concerns (p. 308).

Another major factor limiting the usefulness of this book is its timeliness in view of the major changes Wal-Mart is undertaking now. Since the beginning of this century, the firm has been

confronting a stagnating stock price and deteriorating same-store sales growth in the American market, and consequently has initiated a drastic overhaul of its basic business model (Troy 2006). As a result of the rapidity of the changes within the firm, scholarly analyses are often out of date by the time they appear in print. In the Brunn volume, one chapter focuses on the challenges Wal-Mart confronts in Germany (pp. 261–74); another compares and contrasts the problems Wal-Mart faces in Germany and Japan (pp. 275–92). Though both of these analyses are interesting and worthwhile, Wal-Mart changes have rendered these chapters out of date. Recently, Wal-Mart announced its exit from the German and South Korean markets.

A third major limitation in this volume is the huge size of Wal-Mart. The firm is the largest retailer in the world and employs more than 1,600,000 associates. In 2005, Brunn did a Google search on Wal-Mart and received more than 37,000,000 hits. Simply keeping abreast of the actions of this huge firm is more than a full-time job for a single individual, and this volume does not include any author who is a full-time Wal-Mart watcher.

The inclusion of some topics and omission of others is difficult to understand. Lack of consideration of Wal-Mart of Canada is one of the largest omissions in a volume with globalization as a major theme. Multiple chapters focus on Wal-Mart in China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom, but no chapter is devoted to Canada and very little consideration is given to Wal-Mart in this nation. The Wal-Mart store count in Canada is approximately the same as in the United Kingdom and far larger than the store count in Germany or China. Wal-Mart of Canada is already the largest retailer by sales in that nation, and Wal-Mart has started to introduce the Supercenter format there. As an indicator of the impact Wal-Mart has had on the Canadian retailing scene, the Hudson Bay Stores, a major Canadian retailer, hired a Bentonville High School alumnus and Wal-Mart veteran to be CEO.

Despite limitations, I find most of the chapters in this volume interesting and worthwhile. For retailing scholars and followers of Wal-Mart, reading the perspectives of others is interesting. But this volume is not a compre-

hensive, the basic Fishman observation remains valid: Wal-Mart has been the focus of remarkably little objective scholarly study. **Key Words:** globalization, retailing, Wal-Mart.

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Labor Movement: How Migration Regulates Labor Markets. Harald Bauder. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 2006. 269 pp., maps, photos, bibliog., and appendix. \$35.00 paper (ISBN 0-19-518088-7).

Reviewed by Susan W. Hardwick, Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR.

As anti-immigrant rhetoric continues to fuel increasingly divisive political discourse and policies in many parts of the world, understanding how political, economic, and cultural processes influence the international mobility of workers has become ever more urgent. However, the bulk of existing research on the relationship between international migration and labor has tended to neglect the interconnections between cultural and social dimensions of regulation and the importance of the agency of the actors themselves in shaping the mobility of workers. *Labor Movement* helps fill this gap by presenting an analysis of some of the ways that international migration regulates labor markets, thereby turning on its head the more conventional view that labor needs in particular nation states are the primary determinants of global migration flows.

In this comprehensive and ambitious book, Harald Bauder first lays out a theoretical framework related to the international segmentation of labor that builds on the classic works of Castells (1975) and Bourdieu (1977) and the more recent ideas of Samers (2003) and Smith (2001) to set up his argument that the labor market situation of immigrants depends on a variety of place-based social, cultural, and in-

case studies to illustrate the linkages between labor and migration to build this case.

Labor Movement is divided into four sections. Part I lays out the book's key theoretical arguments, its spatial and temporal context, and its overall structural framework. In Part II, Bauder presents his first empirically-rich case study on immigrants and labor mobility in Vancouver. Part III discusses a series of related issues focusing on immigration and labor in the city of Berlin. Both of these case studies are based on an analysis of statistical data from government sources, political policies in each nation state, and a series of structured interviews. In Part IV, using data gleaned from a discursive textual analysis of newspaper articles, the author turns his attention to the migration and labor experiences of offshore labor migrants from the Caribbean and Mexico who currently work in rural Ontario. Taken as a whole, these case study chapters depend on a wide variety of methods and approaches and thus provide a wealth of new information on migration and labor issues in each of the place-based studies. The book concludes with a richly integrative final chapter that not only emphasizes the recast theoretical outcomes of the book but also urges readers to become activists working for change to (1) help unveil existing mechanisms that control labor markets and (2) construct both utopian and pragmatic visions of improved futures that "intervene in dominating discourses by presenting alternative interpretations of processes and events" (p. 204).

The book's case studies on the impact of migration on labor markets would work very well as stand-alone studies of the immigrant experience in each of three places. In the study of Vancouver, immigrants from South Asia and the former Yugoslavia are compared and contrasted by examining the impacts of differing immigrant classes, ethnic networks, bodily markers, citizenship, and restrictive regulatory policies. The second empirical study also examines immigrants from the former Yugoslavia, but this time in Berlin as they compare with the labor and immigration processes of ethnic German migrants from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (who must prove their commitment to the German nation through fluency in the German language, education, and culture

Ontario, takes an entirely different approach to the study of labor and migration. Here, the author examines rural labor migrants from the Caribbean and Mexico who are employed primarily in tobacco, fruit-growing, and vegetable production. Their experiences are documented and analyzed in this section of *Labor Movements* via a discourse analysis of Ontario newspapers focusing on the themes of foreign seasonal farm workers and the Canadian immigrant worker offshore program. Bauder's findings in this important section of the book indicate that current Canadian citizenship and labor market policies deny equal economic and social rights and privileges for workers.

The author states clearly that one of the book's primary goals is to make his arguments and ideas useful for students, activists, and others who may be unfamiliar with the vast literature on social theory, European philosophers, and migration theory by striving to produce a user-friendly, jargon-free text. In each of the German and Canadian case study chapters, this goal is accomplished quite admirably. However, the overall theoretical framework presented in Part I, describing how migration regulates labor markets and the international segmentation of labor and capital, becomes bogged down at times due to the complexity and comprehensiveness of the arguments. I also found the overall structure of the book somewhat difficult to decipher, especially in the early chapters, since many of the papers that formed the gist of some of the chapters had been published elsewhere (although all were revised for this volume). This resulted in a lack of flow and overall cohesiveness in places.

Despite the occasional lack of clear transitions linking chapters and sections, *Labor Movements* is highly recommended for scholars, students, and those in the general public who are interested in learning more about the timely and critically important relationship between labor and international migration. Bauder sheds important new light on how the presence of migrants in particular places (and their vulnerability) influences labor markets. He also clearly defends his primary argument that it is the interplay among and between social, cultural, economic, and institutional policies and narratives impacting upon international migration