
In *Side by Side* the authors seek to present both the narratives of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict in parallel. This is done in a fashion which is, well, side by side. When the book is held open, on the right-hand page the Palestinian narrative is told, while on the left-hand page the Israeli narrative is told. Both these presentations are toldchronologically, from 1917 to 2001. Although this structure is clever as it allows the reader to compare the presentations, it is also somewhat hard to read as one often has to flip back and forth in order to follow the chronology. The goal of the book is not so much to tell a neutral version of the conflict, but rather to show what each of the sides sees as the most central elements of the conflict. It is interesting to see not only how the two parties portray the events they present, but also to see which events they decide to include and which they choose to leave out. Both sets of narratives tell not only the historical ‘facts’, but also present poetry, art and political cartoons produced by the two parties. It is therefore a very honest piece of work, presenting views that one very rarely sees contained within the same covers. It is a pity that the quality of the book is marred by minor factual errors, as these could easily have been removed with a final round of fact checking. Nonetheless, it is a commendable project that can hopefully help the two sides better understand and perhaps respect each other’s narrative.

Jørgen Jensehaugen


When one picks up a book on social movements and contestation in the Middle East today, one expects to read about the Arab Spring. That is not the case here – all chapters except the last were written before the events of late 2010 – but the specialist reader will come away with a better understanding of the Arab Spring nonetheless. The contributors forsake the cultural and political exceptionalism of the Middle East to contend that social movements in that region operate based on a rational framework, just as they do in other regions of the world. This is even the case, they argue, for Islamist groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Gama’a al-Islamiyya in Egypt. With a mix of experienced and younger researchers, this volume collects an impressive amount of fieldwork on a wide variety of social movements, from unemployed university graduates in Morocco to factory workers in Egypt. These contributions not only demonstrate how Middle Eastern social movements are unexceptional, but also how social movements mobilize – rationally – in response to threats as well as opportunities. Indeed, the greatest value of this volume is in allowing the reader to reflect on this rationality in light of how the Arab Spring unfolded, and in the context of the prior 20 years of social movement history. This volume would be more accessible to a social movement theorist or Middle East specialist than to a young graduate student or a foreign policy practitioner, but it still provides a vehicle to understand the turbulent – and unexceptional – social movement dynamics of the Middle East and North Africa.

Nathan W Toronto


The role of capital cities – politically, economically, and symbolically – is the focus of this historical overview of urban Africa. Presenting several case studies of African capitals by authors from different disciplinary backgrounds, the volume reflects on the different forms power may take in African capitals. This is considered in
two main ways. First, and most intuitively, the chapters outline how power is manifested in structures of authority, with discussions of the political importance of cities and their proximity to financial and intellectual power, and the role of the built environment being intrinsically tied to nation-building and population control. The editors highlight in their introductory chapter that sites of power are also targets, and that capitals contain ‘material edifices which set these cities apart ... from the other cities of the country’ (p. 1) but may also be a ‘crucible for opposition political forces mobilising against the very power and authority vested in the capital and manifested in its symbolism’ (p. 2). The book’s second focus relates to the absence of – or challenges to – power and how urbanism in Africa may provoke opposition movements against formal structures of power or control. In the concluding chapter, the editors acknowledge the links between urban exclusion of individuals and the ‘powerlessness of cities in the face of explosive urbanisation, economic precariousness-cum-informality, soaring service needs and frustrated individual and collective violent behaviour’ (p. 208). Given increasing demographic pressures on African cities, the ability of states to provide urban social and economic inclusion is vital. Despite some flaws, this book succeeds in drawing attention to important questions regarding power relations, governance and dissent in urban Africa.

Kristian Hoelscher


Political realism, the esteemed school of US political thought in which Brzezinski is a living and lively classic, struggles with the question that it was never designed to address: How to manage the consequences of the fast-progressing decline of US power? The author paints a logically consistent picture of chaotic geopolitical realignments towards 2025 driven by ‘a steady drift by America into persuasive decay’ (p. 75). He cannot entertain the idea that a demise of the US hegemony could be good for the world, but is compelled to mention an option of a moderate domestic progress combined with ‘solitary foreign adventures’ (p. 73), reflecting on the misadventure of intervention into Iraq, a blunder that he bitterly laments. It is remarkable that Brzezinski examines not only the contraction of US ‘hard power’, but also the malfunctioning of its gridlocked political system combined with deep public ignorance about international affairs. He also posits that a renewal of US leadership would require ‘a fundamental change of focus in America’s social culture’ (p. 63), so that by curtailing consumerism, the USA becomes an example of intelligent society. He admits that such a re-evaluation of the ethical content of the national dream ‘might occur only after the American public has been shocked into a painful understanding that America itself will be in jeopardy’ (p. 64) staying on the current course towards bankruptcy. It is clear that the ongoing crisis, painful as it is, has produced no such effect, bringing instead a deepening of social inequality and malice in domestic debates. The book is rich in sound ideas, including on making Turkey and Russia into parts of a revitalized West, and makes great reading.

Pavel Baev


This book sets out to highlight the long-term security implications of tensions over water resources, such as transnational aquifers and international rivers, throughout the Asian continent, and how these emerge, endure and intensify. It further aims to offer concrete policy suggestions on how competition and discord over transnational water resources can be prevented from growing into interstate conflicts. The book consists of seven main chapters and two appendices. The chapters include case studies of water securitization in several Asian countries, such as the role of the Tibetan plateau in Asian water politics and the implications of China’s plan for the Brahmaputra River, as well as two chapters focusing on the broader challenges for the Asian continent. The book’s concluding chapter emphasizes the importance of creating sustainable cooperative mechanisms based on Asian rules and norms to meet the growing water stress and avoid water conflict. Overall the book is very comprehensive and an interesting read, but the main conclusions and policy implications are not very surprising and somewhat vague. A more controversial claim made in the book is the expectation that although water conflicts can be real and present in intrastate settings, the situation is much more critical internationally. This is somewhat at odds with more common claims arguing the exact opposite, but nonetheless, Chellaney’s unexpected claims are well argued and well justified.

Marit Brochmann

Julian Cribb’s book ‘The Coming Famine’ is, despite the pitch-black future outlook suggested in the title, a colourful read. The author frames widespread hunger as the main challenge of the future, warns of a global famine to be hitting the world by 2050 and gives hands-on suggestions on what each and every one of us can do to alleviate it. He invokes Jimmy Carter in suggesting that diminishing food supplies are a major threat to global security because ‘hungry people are not peaceful people’ (p. 15); he underlines huge discrepancies in supply, demand and consumption patterns by contrasting the fattened and ‘already overweight 1.4 billion people’ with the ‘fifteen thousand children [who] continued to die quietly and painfully each day from hunger-related disease’ (p. 3); and then he systematically discusses the interactions between food supply and population growth, economic development, energy and oil consumption, and freshwater use, and how climate change may come into play. While the reported numbers and clear facts certainly are threatening, and in themselves a call to action and more cautious consumptive behaviour, the author’s practical suggestions and repeated pleas for a vegetarian lifestyle as the cure to the problem do not acknowledge the complexity of causalities. Dooming cookbooks as ‘a hymnal to an age of indulgence that is costing us the Earth’ and ‘one of the devices that is fueling the coming famine’ (p. 188) highlights why the reader may find it challenging to take the author’s claim seriously. That is disappointing because important points regarding excessive consumption in the West contributing to hunger in developing countries get lost in Cribb’s cumbersome language, overindulgence in metaphors, and shortage of scientific evidence to substantiate such alarming future scenarios.

Gerdis Wischnath


Domestic human rights institutions such as human rights commissions and ombudsmen rank among the most notable institutional developments in newly democratized states. This collective, multidisciplinary volume takes as a starting point that the knowledge about human rights institutions is still undertheorized, and its empirical referents are not properly understood. Accordingly, this book makes two contributions to the study of national human rights institutions. First, it offers a comprehensive account of how national human rights institutions should work according to international standards, and how such institutions actually work in a wide set of countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Second, the book provides valuable insights about the conditions under which state compliance with international human rights norms is more likely. Despite the book’s merits, the reader misses a discussion of principal-agent problems between domestic actors. As recent research on state-sponsored repression and international relations shows, agency problems between government executives and state security actors make compliance with international norms of human rights more difficult. Furthermore, because case-study chapters (e.g. Argentina, Bolivia) are not justified and regional analyses (e.g. Asia, Africa, Latin America) are not fully systematic from a comparative point of view, it is hard to infer general patterns and conclusions with regards to factors that facilitate state compliance with human rights norms. Still, this book represents a convincing call for a new wave of research in the field of human rights and political institutions.

Mauricio Rivera Celestino


A concisely organized and well-balanced volume, the handbook takes broad but illuminating strokes across the literature on democratization. Gathering together 28 perspectives from 33 scholars, the book is organized into four thematic sections. The first discusses the current state of democracy in each major region (excluding the Caribbean and Pacific islands), while the second section examines some of the processes and major actors involved in the democratization process. The third and fourth sections abstract from state and regional levels of analysis to consider worldwide patterns, external actors, and overall implications for development. The book is broad in scope but shallow in depth. A major strength of the handbook is its coverage of different levels of analysis (from country to region to international), major paradigms and mid-range theories, and domestic and external factors. It also provides a brief but extensive summary of major debates and findings in the recent literature on democracy. The easy-to-digest essays isolate and summarize important concepts, while at the same
time remaining grounded in the overall process around which the book is focused, and Jay Ulfelder’s essay on democratic transitions is particularly readable. Because of its conciseness and comprehensiveness, the book can be recommended for graduate and undergraduate students in political science, while also appealing to a wider audience. Of particular interest to conflict scholars are the chapters on democratization and war (Wolfgang Merkel) and conflict resolution (Sonja Grimm). The impression left by the volume as a whole is one of uncertainty as to the determinants and consequences of democratization, but it nevertheless encourages future work on the subject and is a useful resource for theory-building.

Matthew Wilson


The relationship between migration, remittances and development has received consistent attention from policymakers and academics during the past two decades, largely as a result of substantial remittance flows. This edited volume presents a timely regional focus on South Asia, including top remittance-receiving countries, such as India and Pakistan, and countries where remittances are significant in relation to GDP, such as Nepal, but also countries where remittance outflows are substantial, such as the Maldives. Through in-depth quantitative case studies of eight South Asian countries, the diversity of labour migration and its implications for development are shown. The book’s main strength lies in its convincing appeal for increased attention to migration policy in migrant-sending countries, arguing for a coherent South Asian approach to ‘migration governance’ (p. 301) with a focus on protection of migrants and maximizing development benefits. Following Sen’s approach to development as freedom, the book advocates for a consideration of migration as a choice, but not a necessity. While the case studies represent important and solid background for the regional picture and overall argument, they do not entirely live up to expectations for comprehensive analysis of the migration-remittances-development nexus in each country context. Largely based on a combination of national statistics and household surveys from particular contexts, the case-studies are limited by the poor quality of available statistical data. This weakness is acknowledged, as the challenges of calculating informal versus formal flows of remittances – as well as estimating formal and informal migration as such – are discussed as important areas for future research. Throughout, it is clearly stated that sound development policies are the solution, whereas migration produces both positive and negative consequences depending on the context and scale of analysis.

Marta Bivand Erdal


This book is a structured collection of essays that addresses a debate in full force, namely, whether natural resources represent a curse or a blessing for a country. The volume probes two important questions; first the extent to which natural resource wealth can contribute to peace, or rather facilitate the emergence and maintenance of internal armed conflicts. Second, going beyond the theoretical discussions, these chapters explore what lessons are learned from the practical experience of working in resource-rich countries that are facing post-conflict peace-building processes. The book is not a manual, and this is one of its virtues. However, it does show some ways in which peacebuilding processes could be oriented in countries where resources are both a threat and an opportunity, highlighting that such approaches should consider the importance of the historical trajectory of the country, its political, economic and cultural complexity, and the relevance of its institutions. Moreover, this book is a good tool to identify policies and preventive actions in countries where resources are currently a potential trigger of internal conflicts. Without abandoning the rigor in the exposition, the book is accessible to multiple audiences. Reading the book, both academics and policymakers may gain a better understanding of the problem, have a better starting point to design solutions for current problems, and be better able to anticipate courses of action for the future.

Miguel Serrano López


Violent action is not the only – or even the primary – undertaking of insurgent movements. Mampilly’s contention runs contrary to the sentiment of much of the present-day literature. Rooted in International Relations, he engages creatively yet constructively with a broad set of literatures, from philosophy to anthropology. Mampilly redefines the agency of rebel movements, which in his typologization may pursue widely different
and how the surrender of Japan on 16 August 1945 created dividing lines that were soon framed within the logic of global cold war between communists and anti-communists. Mahathir’s account of these ideological and ethnic alliances and their relationship to concrete economic and political grievances consists of analysis and personal reflection. Thus, the book is interesting both as research material on perceptions of an influential politician, and as a study. However, the book is also interesting for those who want to know how knowledge and politics interact in Malaysia. Mahathir’s analysis is not merely a scholarly account or a personal reflection, but also a reflection of the political elite’s need to create truths and realities for Malaysian politics.

Timo Kivistäki


The author of this book is Malaysia’s longest serving prime minister, from 1981 to 2003. He became the symbol of successful bargaining with great powers, with his critically engaging approach to world politics. His memoirs contain crucial insights on the formation of Malaysian politics, but the book is a good read also for people interested in Malaysia’s role in issues of domestic and international peace and conflict. For a peace researcher, Mahathir’s book is interesting as it focuses also on the histories of conflict and bargaining with external powers (UK and Japan), externally conditioned conflict between communists and anti-communists, conflict between states of the Malaysian federation (especially the difficult position of Singapore), and conflict between ethnic groups. The author reveals the way in which common resistance to the Japanese kept various forces together, and how the surrender of Japan on 16 August 1945 created a new situation where ethnicity, domestic ideology and the attitude to the British and the Malaysian elite suddenly created dividing lines that were soon framed within the logic of global cold war between communists and anti-communists. Mahathir’s account of these ideological and ethnic alliances and their relationship to concrete economic and political grievances consists of analysis and personal reflection. Thus, the book is interesting both as research material on perceptions of an influential politician, and as a study. However, the book is also interesting for those who want to know how knowledge and politics interact in Malaysia. Mahathir’s analysis is not merely a scholarly account or a personal reflection, but also a reflection of the political elite’s need to create truths and realities for Malaysian politics.

Kristian Berg Harpviken


The usage of sophisticated technologies in security governance has proliferated during the last decade, to the extent that surveillance and risk management have become integral parts of contemporary society. This book addresses what the author calls the rise of the biometric state – signaled by an increasing usage of biometric technologies in everyday life. Drawing on Foucault’s work on biopower and recent theoretical debates within critical security studies on precautionary risk management, securitization, and exceptionism, the author argues that border security, and thereby the nature of borders per se, is undergoing a transformation. The book is an important contribution to critical studies of security and surveillance technologies, and provides a good overview of contemporary debates in the field. It raises critical questions regarding an increasing reliance on biometric identification, and the effects of ‘virtual borders’ on the politics of immigration and citizenship. Logics of risk that govern the management of bodies crossing borders enact a politics of suspicion and a preoccupation with who one is and where one is going. Covering a range of cases – including the US NEXUS program and biometric identification of returning citizens of Fallujah – it is argued that logics of risk and surveillance extend beyond the commonly studied borders of North America and Europe. The book is relevant for researchers and students in critical security studies, surveillance studies and international relations, and in particular it is an important read for those interested in present-day security technologies and practice.

Elida KU Jacobsen
importance and commonplace. Given this, the discussion around the urban poor, and urban marginality has become elites to reorder urban areas, have severely burdened the colonial cities, and the failed attempts of postcolonial 42). Myers claims that legacies of weak and unequal transnational conceptualizations of urban culture’ (p. violent and non-violent urban imaginaries, and local and postcolonial urban design visions, formal and informal chapters discuss the ‘intersections between colonial and practice of African cities. By looking at a variety of cases, the primary and secondary sources, the book is organized around five thematic discussions of the theory and prac-tice of African cities. By looking at a variety of cases, the chapters discuss the ‘intersections between colonial and postcolonial urban design visions, formal and informal settlement, collaborative and contestatory governance, violent and non-violent urban imaginaries, and local and transnational conceptualizations of urban culture’ (p. 42). Myers claims that legacies of weak and unequal colonial cities, and the failed attempts of postcolonial elites to reorder urban areas, have severely burdened the urban poor, and urban marginality has become commonplace. Given this, the discussion around the importance and normality of informality is illuminating, as are claims that hybrid forms of governance are necessary to create a ‘relational city’ – where informal citizens are linked with formalized governance structures. Unfortunately, the political economy of how citizens and political actors engage and the processes by which they shape such inclusive governance are perhaps not discussed in sufficient detail, yet this is unsurprising given that this is a work of geography. However, the book succeeds in offering a thoughtful new account of how to conceptualize and engage with the urban context in Africa.

\[\text{Kristian Hoelscher}\]


Jason Stearns argues in his book that the Congolese war should be given as much attention as other human cataclysms of our time. Despite the immensely high mortality figures and the regional character of the war, sustained attention from the world has been lacking. The exceptions are occasional media reports from Congo which have reinforced stereotypes describing a country filled with savages, crazed by power and greed. This book attempts to break this pattern by trying to understand the political system which has produced violence of unbelievable proportions. Stearns, a Yale doctoral researcher with over a decade of experience working on conflict in Congo, argues that the violence is underpinned by political rationales and motives, and can only be understood by focusing on the perpetrators themselves. Building on rich empirical material, his in-depth knowledge and understanding of Congo is visible in the way he guides the reader through the story of the two Congo wars. He argues that the story of the Congo wars is one of state weakness and failure, which has made possible the ceaseless proliferation of a number of insurgent groups. Furthermore, Stearns argues that the historical legacy weighs heavily on the present. The political disintegration starting from the 16th century is part of the framework which explains why protagonists today seem to prefer war to peace, and why regional political elites seem to be so rich in opportunism and so lacking in virtue. In this fine book, Stearns contributes to breaking down the stereotypes which have influenced not only media coverage of Congo, but also donors’ contributions to conflict resolution.

\[\text{Tove Heggli Sagmo}\]


This is the most authoritative account to date of the relationship between the Afghan Taliban and Al Qaeda. Strick van Linschoten and Kuehn write as residents of Kandahar in the Taliban heartland, and combine deep familiarity with in-depth interviews and a thorough examination of the literature. Their contention – that the Taliban–Al Qaeda relationship was always a difficult marriage of convenience, in large part brought about by the international isolation of the former – is not unique. Yet, the account is. The authors trace the two movements – their memberships, ideologies, objectives, tactics – from the 1970s to the present. They vigorously pursue not only the relationship between the top cadre of the two entities, but also the internal tensions within each (often over the relationship to the other), and how certain factions have collaborated closely across the divide. In the authors’ view, foreign interventionists have worked on the faulty assumptions of a close Taliban–Al Qaeda relationship, thereby contributing to strengthen the relationship. Looking ahead, Strick van Linschoten and Kuehn worry that the military ‘decapitation’
campaign opens up space for a new generation of battle-hardened, ideological, irreconcilable Taliban leaders, more in tune with Al Qaeda’s mission. Undoubtedly, there is enormous disparity in aims between the two movements. However, there is one factor that the authors mention frequently, but give less weight analytically: the Taliban’s dependence on Pakistan’s goodwill, which it would lose if it started to pursue targets in that country or beyond. Also, the book would have benefited from a firmer editorial hand, both tightening the flow of the narrative and erasing minor errors. Yet, these are minor objections for a book that is a must-read for students of Afghanistan and international Islamist terror alike.

Kristian Berg Harpviken


Motivated by Ulfelder’s work as research director for the Political Instability Task Force, the book aims to provide mid-range theory concerning situations where democratic institutions exist, however briefly these may last. Thailand’s 2006 military coup led the author to develop a game-theoretic model to better understand strategic concerns that actors face. The formal model considers the interplay between three organizations: electoral winners, electoral losers, and the military. Here, if every actor expects to fare better under democracy they would maintain it, provided there is perfect information. Under more realistic conditions of incomplete information, however, players might attempt to usurp power even if all prefer democracy. The model suggests that fears of coups by other actors overshadow players’ beliefs about the outcome of future elections, prompting unnecessary retaliation. Chapter 3 summarizes broad patterns in the survival of democracy. Importantly, the definition of democracy on which the sample of cases is based in part determines the failures that are observed, which should be seriously considered when evaluating outcomes. Additionally, the author uses process-tracing narratives to test the formal model’s applicability. Four randomly selected cases are compared according to their different outcomes: breakdown by executive coup (Ukraine, 1990s), breakdown by military coup (Fiji, 2000s), breakdown by rebellion (Cyprus, 1960s), and successful consolidation (Spain after Franco). Two confounding cases are also considered: Venezuela (2005) and Thailand (2006). The mutual insecurities between actors are clearly visible in each of the country narratives, though they do not preclude alternative explanations. The book’s final section gives practical advice for policy-making, but is arguably more prescriptive than it should be given the paucity of evidence. In all, the book is a concise and thought-provoking contribution in the spirit of Acemoglu and Robinson, Geddes, and Przeworski, which focuses on actors’ incentives to operate under democracy.

Matthew Wilson


In this comprehensive, insightful collection, Vajpeyi and colleagues analyze the vast opportunities for both conflict and cooperation within several different international river basins across the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Vajpeyi’s introductory chapter opens the book with a bleak discussion on the current and near-future status of global water supplies and highlights the compounding pressures of population growth, migration within and across borders, and the needs and consequences of the growing agricultural and industrial sectors. All of this, it is suggested, may exacerbate already contentious relations among and between riparian states and further fuel nationalism and legitimize inept governments’ preservation of power and the status quo. The proceeding seven chapters outline the history, geopolitics, disputes and cooperative measures of several highly notable international basins. Several of these draw the conclusion that while water as a shared common good has the potential for igniting or legitimizing conflict over pre-existing disputes related to territory, ethnicity, or institutionalized remnants of post-colonial power relations, it can also diffuse conflict when certain water-sharing mechanisms and appropriate institutional support are in place. The concluding chapter summarizes the factors that are most likely to induce conflict over shared water resources, accompanied by macro-level, yet slightly vague and repetitive policy recommendations. Despite the lack of novel or highly unique policy suggestions, the book does succeed in disentangling many of the convoluted political, socio-economic and demographic issues that interrelate with hydropolitics in some of the world’s most important shared basins. Given the book’s broad scope, it will prove an interesting and relevant read for policymakers, undergraduate and graduate students, resource management strategists and professionals, and those interested in receiving a general introduction to the hydropolitics of shared water systems.

Katherine Edelen

To be sure, the aim of this book is ambitious, as it aims to ‘pull together as much of the relevant work on revolutions from a variety of disciplines as possible’ (p. 16). The book certainly does achieve this purpose, albeit at certain costs. The treatment of the subject is extremely broad and leaves few gaps: we learn about internal dynamics of revolutions, their structural causes, types of internal challengers, ideologies and mobilization, and outcomes. All this is discussed predominantly with a domestic focus, but I was glad to see the international dimension included – not only as potential trigger, but also when it comes to international repercussions of national revolutions. Thus, there is little to be desired for someone looking for a comprehensive overview of the multidisciplinary literature on revolution. At the same time, however, this is clearly not an easily accessible overview. Little is done to pre-process and order the vast amount of material to make it easier to comprehend and relate to other aspects of the literature. In large parts, the discussion proceeds as a literature review, with little or no elaboration of how the different scholarly bits and pieces presented belong together. This makes the volume a rather difficult read, and renders it unsuitable as an introductory-level textbook on revolutions. The case studies in the appendix – while potentially useful to illustrate core concepts and theories introduced before – unfortunately remain detached from the main part of the book, which is a huge missed opportunity. This book is a good choice for those seeking a broad treatment of the literature on revolutions, but it is left to the reader to order and digest the material.

Nils B Weidmann


The Criminological Imagination is the final book in Jock Young’s trilogy on contemporary criminological thought. His purpose is first and foremost to ‘contribute somewhat to the growing skepticism with regards to the widespread desire to quantify every aspect of the human condition’ (p. ix). Using the framework of C Wright Mill’s sociological canon from 1959, The Sociological Imagination, Young argues that the (US) academy is dominated by a disposition toward either Grand Theory or Abstracted Empiricism, the former as exhausted on self-referential concepts in describing social structure as the latter is absorbed by its own myopic and unreflective ‘methodology’. Both are as dissociated from the world they purport to describe. Although his criticism reaches well beyond the discipline of criminology, he sees the ‘bogus of positivism’ as a particularly acute tendency in the field, among other things driven by the expansion of the criminal justice system and its logics of ‘othering’, coupled with demands for consultancy and evaluative research. To counter these tendencies, Young argues – in a highly engaged and entertaining tone – that we must invoke Mill’s imagination by situating the study of the individual within social structure and history, and move our analytic gaze between the micro and the macro so as to reveal the significance of public issues for personal troubles. As a nestor in the field, Young has arguably taken some liberties that have sparked debate among his peers, most notably by David Garland in his critique of the same book, asking if Young’s project is fundamentally one of epistemological ‘othering’. However, for anyone aspiring to sociological craftsmanship, this book is as thought-provoking as it is inspiring.

Kjersti Lohne

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Katherine Edelen – PRIO
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