

a lack of negative cases. Blee provides both here, along with a sophisticated microlevel path-dependency argument that greatly expands our understanding of how social movement groups form. In doing so, she informs debate on civic engagement, democratic practice, and small group dynamics. The book offers many ways organizational development can be quickly stunted, but it is ultimately sanguine about the possibility for democratic action. Change can be difficult, but there are plenty of concrete things that can be done to increase the odds of success.

Keys to the City: How Economics, Institutions, Social Interaction, and Politics Shape Development. By Michael Storper. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2013. Pp. xii+275. \$39.95 (cloth).

Anthony M. Orum
Loyola University Chicago

As the Chicago school's sociologists recognized a century ago, cities are a central feature of the world. They are the sites to which people are drawn and to which increasing numbers will be drawn in the future. But why do some metropolitan regions do so much better in terms of their ability to generate growth and development while others do so poorly? And what might be done to enhance the prospects of those that do more poorly?

These are the main questions that Michael Storper addresses in his important new book, *Keys to the City*. Though he writes as an economic geographer, his answers cover a wide variety of academic disciplines, ranging across geography, economics, political science, and sociology. It is a demanding book. But it is also a book that anyone who is seriously interested in cities and regions must read.

One of the main themes of Storper's analytical meditations is a criticism of the theories that insist that the way to metropolitan development is to create amenities. He takes to task, in particular, economists Richard Florida and Edward Glaeser, insisting that they have misunderstood, indeed, reversed the causal link between people and jobs. Florida, in particular, has grown popular by insisting that in today's high-technology economy cities and regions must seek to import highly creative and skilled people—the "creative class" as he terms it.

But Storper insists that it is not people who draw jobs but rather jobs that draw people. He makes this argument in different ways throughout the book. In the first chapter, for example, he takes up the growth of the American Sunbelt and of its many cities. Did people come here before the jobs—or did the plants and jobs come first? Storper insists it was the jobs that drew people first, though of course later on, he admits, the early success of particular cities and regions fueled their additional economic growth. All the urban history I know, including the dramatic shift of population from the Northeast and the Midwest to the Sunbelt in the 1960s and 1970s, easily confirms Storper's claim.

The processes of agglomeration and specialization highlight his arguments about why some cities and regions may continue to develop while others do not. He incorporates the insights of a number of economists in this work, among them Paul Krugman and George Stiglitz. He writes about the advantages of the economies of scale that make some regions more successful than others. And he also introduces other comparisons, detailing how and why specialization in certain industries, like finance, may develop in a large and diversified city like New York, whereas entertainment proves more successful in a metropolitan region like Los Angeles.

Storper does not rest his argument about the keys to the city only in terms of the comparative advantages of economic specialization, however. He also brings in the importance of communities and social networks. In particular, he examines the economic advantages to certain regions of having had great economic success in one branch of industry and then, via collaborative and inclusive social networks, transposing the experience and skills of that success into yet another industry within the same region. Here he offers the example of Silicon Valley and how the early experience of developing computers there fed into the ability of established and collaborative social networks to use their experience and skills to help create success in the development of other forms of innovation in the high-technology industry.

Innovation is a major concern in the book. Storper outlines the significance of innovation for the success of a particular region, as above in the case of Silicon Valley. But the single event may prove fortuitous and lead to nothing else in the future. Henry Ford built cars in Detroit, and other automakers followed. But then what happened? Detroit was unable to build on its success in the manufacture of automobiles, that success having been captured abroad in countries like Japan. Silicon Valley, by comparison, continues to generate one success after another. Why? Again it is the role that the process of agglomeration plus the existence of bridging social networks can play in the life of a particular region. Moreover, he insists, imitation and mimicry play a role in regional development as well. He uses the Austin, Texas, area as an example to illustrate how a city and region modeled their own success after the kind of success generated in California, but there are others as well, of course.

I learned a great deal from this book. One general lesson to take away from it is that there is no easy or foolproof way for cities and regions to grow. Accidents can play a role, though they cannot sustain economic development over the long haul. Another lesson is that it may take a combination of different analytical ideas and frameworks to fully appreciate urban growth and decline.

Yet while I have tremendous respect for the analyses and criticisms Storper offers, I am not blind to the flaws of his argument. I think he, like other economic geographers, understates the singular importance of previous historical events and figures to shape the possibilities for economic growth and development. Consider this. Austin possessed not only social networks connected in space but also across time. Networks of actors

reached across many decades and their actions ultimately brought dams to the Colorado River, thus harnessing its energies to furnish electricity to the Hill Country region. Moreover, Lyndon Baines Johnson strategically parlayed these activities into his own emergence on the national scene by securing funds for the dams' construction. Somehow this kind of rich history (often simply termed exogenous events) seems superfluous for the models of economics, when, I would argue, had these actions never occurred, much that would follow in this particular region would not have taken place either.

I also believe that Storper understates the special role of two types of organizations that have played a great role in stimulating economic development in recent decades. One is the state. In East Asian countries, particularly today in China, the state, in combination with the market, has exercised a tremendous impact on the economic development of regions. The other organization is that of the university. There are a number of major universities that have helped to create and fuel the development of the new economy. From Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Columbus, Ohio, from Seattle, Washington, to Madison, Wisconsin, universities have provided both the intellectual resources and the shaping of the local political agenda that have helped to make their regions into economic powerhouses. Without them these specific regions as well as others like them would not be winners in the current round of economic development in the United States.

God's Gangs: Barrio Ministry, Masculinity, and Gang Recovery. By Edward Orozco Flores. New York: New York University Press, 2013. Pp. xiv + 230.

Forrest Stuart
University of Chicago

Street gangs have been a staple of sociological study dating back to the first Chicago school of the early 20th century. Canonical studies in urban sociology have extensively investigated how young men in impoverished communities become socialized into gangs. In *God's Gangs: Barrio Ministry, Masculinity, and Gang Recovery*, Edward Orozco Flores inverts the standard research question, asking instead how young men become socialized *out* of gang life. Relying on 18 months of fieldwork shadowing gang-affiliated men in several Latino neighborhoods in Los Angeles, *God's Gangs* traces the turbulent, emotional, and sometimes deadly process of leaving gang life and desisting from gang-related behaviors—what Flores terms “gang recovery.”

In addition to his dissatisfaction with the lack of scholarly attention to gang exit, Flores is motivated by an important empirical puzzle that will make the book relevant well beyond the realm of gang research. According to U.S. Census data, inner-city Los Angeles continues to be characterized by extreme poverty, low-wage jobs, a high percentage of immigrants, and a prevalence of violent street gangs. According to Flores, immigration