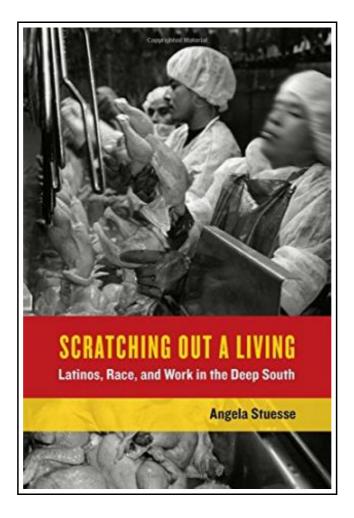
Scratching Out a Living: Latinos, Race, and Work in the Deep South



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Reviews

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(Shayne O'Conner)

SCRATCHING OUT A LIVING: LATINOS, RACE, AND WORK IN THE DEEP SOUTH



University of California Press, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. How has Latino immigration transformed the South? In what ways is the presence of these newcomers complicating efforts to organize for workplace justice? Scratching Out a Living takes readers deep into Mississippi s chicken processing plants and communities, where large numbers of Latin American migrants were recruited in the mid-1990s to labor alongside an established African American workforce in some of the most dangerous and lowest-paid jobs in the country. As America s voracious appetite for chicken has grown, so has the industry s reliance on immigrant workers, whose structural position makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Based on the author s six years of collaboration with a local workers center, this book explores how Black, white, and new Latino Mississippians have lived and understood these transformations. Activist anthropologist Angela Stuesse argues that people s racial identifications and relationships to the poultry industry prove vital to their interpretations of the changes they are experiencing. Illuminating connections between the area s long history of racial inequality, the industry s growth and drive to lower labor costs, immigrants contested place in contemporary social relations, and workers prospects for political mobilization, Scratching Out a Living paints a compelling ethnographic portrait of neoliberal globalization and calls for organizing strategies that bring diverse working communities together in mutual construction of a more just future.

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