Reimagining Home in the 21st Century

Edited by Justine Lloyd and Ellie Vasta, Department of Sociology, Macquarie University, Australia

Providing ways of reimagining home, this book demonstrates that thinking differently about home advances our understanding of processes of belonging. Authors in this collection explore home in relation to the figure of the stranger and public space, as well as with a focus on practices of dwelling and materialities. Through these frameworks, the collection as whole suggests that our home does not ‘belong’ to us, rather we ‘belong’ to home.

‘Justine Lloyd and Ellie Vasta, as editors of Reimagining Home in the 21st Century, were able to bring together empirically well-grounded and theoretically founded studies on the contemporary character of home(s). The thematic diversity is refreshing rather than confusing.’
– Tomáš Samec, International Journal of Housing Policy

‘This book is unsettling, in the most enjoyable way. “Home” has long been a scholarly obsession, but where others try to pin down its “meaning”, this collection revels in its multiplicity. By viewing home-making as practiced and mobile, these essays emphasise the “interactional achievement” of people, spaces and things. It examines its scale – from man-caves to nations – its spatiality – on public transport as much as in residences – and its temporality – as constant re-creation. This approach flags the contradictory and ambivalent nature of home-making as individual and collective projects of identity. In a world marked by a “crisis of home”, this collection examines the relation between agency and power as we struggle for coherence and continuity.’
– Greg Noble, University of Western Sydney, Australia

‘From “man caves” to commuter cars, “smart houses” to convivial kitchens, Reimagining Home in the 21st Century provides a rich and engaging window into the diverse lifeworlds that characterise the 21st Century.’
– Katherine Brickell, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

‘Reimagining Home in the 21st Century is a timely book that addresses key themes of 21st century life; about where we belong, how we shape our present, imagine our future and are shaped by the mobility and migrations of those both close to us and more culturally distant. An invaluable contribution that sheds light on both the way we live now and the concepts we use to make sense of our time.’
– Michael Keith, University of Oxford, UK

‘Justine Lloyd and Ellie Vasta have done a fantastic job as editors in bringing together a group of critically minded scholars to write chapters on the meanings, practices and representations of home during a period of rapid social change. I have no doubt that Reimagining Home in the 21st Century will make an important contribution to academic scholarship by showcasing the considerable insights that can be achieved by interdisciplinary forms of inquiry.’
– Keith Jacobs, University of Tasmania, Australia