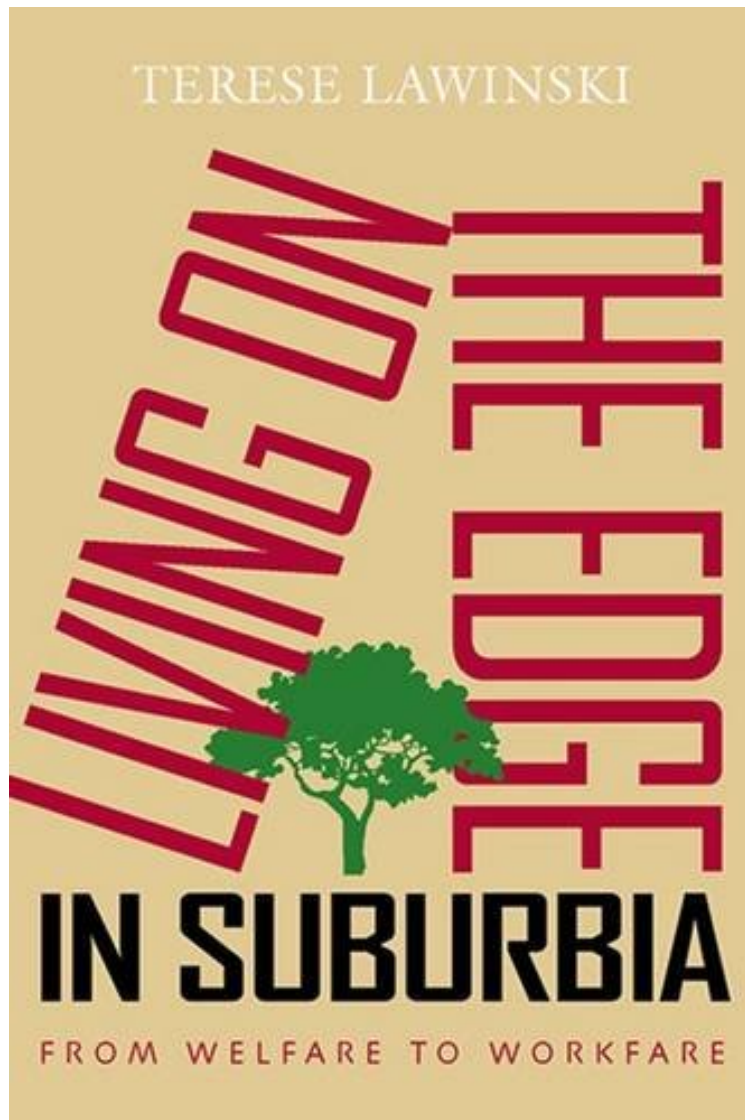


[Ebook pdf] Living on the Edge in Suburbia: From Welfare to Workfare

Living on the Edge in Suburbia: From Welfare to Workfare

Terese Lawinski

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Terese Lawinski : Living on the Edge in Suburbia: From Welfare to Workfare before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living on the Edge in Suburbia: From Welfare to Workfare:

Westchester County, New York, is thought of as suburban and affluent, but welfare reform hit hard here, too. The radical 1996 legislation created a temporary assistance program for poor families with harsher provisions than the

program it replaced. It mandates "workfare," meaning that recipients must work as a condition of benefit receipt. But the work parents obtain in the so-called flexible labor market--jobs like home health care aide--are inflexible for them. One sick child can mean the loss of a job. In contrast to accounts of inner-city poor families, these suburban parents' stories reveal a broad array of precipitating circumstances leading to their downward economic slide and to welfare. They also provide insight into the bureaucratic machinations, rigid rules and mandates, disciplining techniques, and catch-22s that create an insecure environment for many families today. Many of these stories show that the need for welfare over time extends well beyond the federal government's five-year lifetime limit on welfare. Policies emphasizing work first also restrict access to education and further hinder parents' ability to gain a toehold in the economy. In this tale of people and policies, the author shows how the interests of governments are often at variance with those of vulnerable families, and how some government actions place more pressure on lives replete with stress.

"Offers the reader a window on the struggles of the suburban poor"--Journal of Planning Education and Research
"Recommended."--CHOICE
From the Inside Flap
A vivid ethnography of how welfare reform and the low-wage labor market converge to intensify the insecurity of poor families in Westchester County
About the Author
Terese Lawinski is an anthropologist interested in issues related to poverty, women, families, and social equality.