symbol in their "reconstruction of identity" (p. 161). As such, the "veil" serves as a means of balancing the conflicting roles of these women.

However, Macleod maintains that the "new veiling" represents "a double edged message." While it is a form of "protest," it is also a form of "accommodation" or "acquiescence" (pp. 137-138). It reflects a form of both protest against, and acquiescence to, unequal power relations in three different contexts: family, class, and global level. Within the family, "veiling" validates their identities as "good woman," "good wife," and "good mother," while working outside the home, and helps to enhance their power in this context. Also, this practice symbolically provides these women with a means to bring themselves closer to the middle class and to remove themselves farther away from lower-class women. On the global level, in turn, "hijab" serves as a mechanism for affirmation or validation of their cultural and gender identity by protesting against "the loss of traditional values" brought on by the rise of "modernization and development" (p. 135).

According to Macleod, while the "veil" can be perceived as a sign of change, it also signals women's acceptance and conformity to traditionally defined gender roles. This, in turn, can lead to "reproduction of inequality" in the future. In explaining the meaning and the function of the "veil" for this particular category of women, Macleod emphasizes that this practice should not be mistaken for, or perceived as, simply "reactivation of tradition," "reactionary," "Islamic resurgence," "false-consciousness," or "religious revivalism." Rather, it is "voluntary" and is "based on personal reflection" (pp. 4, 14, 107, 109-111, 160).

Macleod's Accommodating Protest provides detailed, informative, and stimulating insights into how a particular group of Non-Western women--lower-middle-class working women--adjust to, or cope with, the conditions of their everyday lives. In so doing, she elaborates the dynamics of the interaction among gender, culture, religion, family, employment, and power relations. However, given that this is a case study based on a small number of women in Cairo, Egypt, the reader is clearly limited in generalizing Macleod's findings to the lives of the millions of other Moslem women, not only in Egypt, but in other nations in the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia, and so forth.

Nonetheless, the depth of the data and analysis that Macleod presents should stimulate continuing research and dialogue about the roles of women in the Third World, not solely Moslem women, but all Third World women. Accommodating Protest provides an especially valuable contribution to understanding the complexity of gender issues in cultural contexts.

University of Kansas

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh
aim is by putting clients first and in charge. Although this approach speaks to the practice principle of client empowerment the implicit emphasis is on the professionals (and the worker) being in charge of the decision making process and not the client.

In bridging the generalist perspective and the task-centered approach, the authors utilized three practice concepts: target problem, collaterals and context. According to the authors, context refers to the biopsychosocial and historical factors that surround the target problem and are the recent conceptual development with task-centered practice. In some ways, though, the authors treat these practice concepts as if they were newly discovered principles of practice and unique to the task-centered approach.

Overall, the authors have crafted an interesting conceptualization of generalist practice. Not only have they synthesized a great deal of complex background literature pertaining to the various size client systems, but have established an empirically based approach to practice. However, despite the careful crafting of this text, this reviewer would have liked to see the authors further develop the notion of target problems as something desirable, and thus to be attained (p. 393). The authors have acknowledged that empowering techniques such as identifying and building on strengths, teaching specific skills, mobilizing resources and advocating are generally incorporated in the task-centered approach. Although this discussion was focused on work with special populations only (poor and minorities) (p. 100), it is this reviewer's contention that these techniques, along with empowerment practice, is at the center of generalist practice with all client populations. A final concern has to do with the authors' contention that very little is known about how decisions are made regarding the appropriate system with which to begin work. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the information has not been articulated in ways that clearly suggest a topology of movement in working across systems.

I would like to conclude with the authors' beginning statement that: teaching students to become generalists is a complicated matter since generalists must possess the skills to work with a variety of different systems, problems, settings and populations. In many ways this text represents an impressive movement toward a more integrative approach to generalist practice. However, stronger and more prevalent precautions are necessary to guard against users of this text oversimplifying the complex nature of human beings and or mechanizing the helping process.

Mid-American Review of Sociology

Sadye L. Logan, DSW


Federal and privately funded studies completed during the last decade have consistently shown that areas most often affected by environmental contamination and toxic hazards are disproportionately populated by minorities. These findings have played an important role in politicizing citizens in minority and low income communities around issues of equity, justice and the same rights to clean air, water and land as affluent suburbs. The call for environmental justice is growing and the emergent environmental justice movement is gaining the attention and involvement of social scientists and some public policy makers.

Since 1987 academia has become increasingly involved in the nascent movement. The University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment has been at the forefront, holding two conferences on issues central to the movement. The first conference in 1990 led to a compilation of essays titled Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards: A Time for Discourse (Bryant and Mohai 1992) that provided a wide range of evidence and documentation on environmental inequities. Bunyan Bryant's Environmental Justice: Issues, Policies and Solutions is the result of a second conference on environmental justice held in 1993. The book can be read alone or as a follow-up compilation that emphasizes issues similar to its counterpart, but with a new focus. Bryant stresses in his introduction, in contrast to the 1992 publication, this book is not merely centered on "articulating the environmental justice problems" but rather on developing solutions.

Environmental Justice begins with four rather succinct and thought-provoking analyses of the role of professionals and citizens in promoting environmental justice. Of particular import is Rebecca Head's discussion concerning the extent to which present scientific methods and data are adequate (or inadequate) for informing public policy. Her recommendation for both short-term and long-term amelioration of community-based environmental inequities rests on the necessity for site-specific criteria developed in conjunction with citizen participation for determining safety factors involving environmental hazards or the possibility thereof. The accent of the book's middle essays moves towards institutional issues involving urban residential segregation, economic impacts of state and federal environmental policies and the need for a national industrial policy emphasizing planning that would sacrifice neither workers nor production. Robert Bullard's cogent discussion of institutionalized urban housing discrimination leads to a conclusion similar to Head's in the earlier essay. That is, key to combating environmental inequities is the effective incorporation of citizen's (the primary stakeholders in these issues) into decision-making processes affecting their communities. The final chapters focus discussion on the prospects for democracy, sustainable development and global environmentalism in the approaching decades. As Fredrick Buttel observes in the closing essay, local, national and international "environmental policy must be recognized for what it is - broad social policy" (pp. 206). This statement appears to capture the central point of the book.