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Lesbian Asia Gay and Lesbian Identity Invisible Families Towards
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Mobilizing Gay Singapore Community Organizing Against Homophobia
and Heterosexism Are We Thinking Straight? Jack Nichols, Gay
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one of the founding fathers of the gay and lesbian liberation
movement jack nichols was a warrior for gay equality journalist
activist co founder of the mattachine societies of washington dc
and florida and editor of the first gay weekly newspaper in the
united states his death in 2005 left a legacy of gay rights gay
pride and tremendous courage jack nichols gay pioneer have you
heard my message is his story blending the man the movement and
the moment into a memory of his work before and after stonewall
and during the aids epidemic in this important text stephen
valocchi brings capitalism back into the study of the gay and
lesbian movement he argues that to understand the collective

identity structure strategies and goals of the movement we need to understand the role that capitalism and the state have played while capitalism and the state have figured centrally in earlier analyses of social movements these important institutions and their social processes are no longer central concerns of the theory and research of social movements in the united states

capitalisms and gay identities examines how the class based inequalities and changing class structures of capitalism interact with and indeed help shape the dynamics of other types of inequalities such as gender sexuality race and ethnicity these inequalities and structures in turn shape the specific grievances of and affect the nature of stigma levied against individuals with sexual and gender nonconformity valocchi shows that capitalism is a dynamic system and as it changes the nature of the movement and the collective identity created by the movement also changes a vital text for undergraduate and postgraduate students of sociology social movements lgbtq politics and american studies capitalisms and gay identities challenges our understanding of many aspects of the gay and lesbian movement when viewed through the lens of capitalism particularly its ability to advance the cause of sexual freedom and gender justice this collection of essays seeks to explore the impact that gay rights politics and activism have had on the wider american political landscape since the rights revolutions of the 1960s at a time when lesbian gay bisexual and transgender individuals often referred to under the umbrella acronym lgbt are becoming more visible in society and more socially acknowledged clinicians and researchers are faced with incomplete information about their health status while lgbt populations often are combined as a single entity for research and advocacy purposes each is a distinct population group with its own specific health needs furthermore the experiences of lgbt individuals are not uniform and are shaped by factors of race ethnicity socioeconomic status geographical location and age any of which can have an effect on health related concerns and needs the health of lesbian gay bisexual and transgender people assesses the state of science on the health status of lgbt populations identifies research gaps and opportunities and outlines a research agenda for the national institute of health the report examines the health status of these populations in three life stages childhood and adolescence early middle adulthood and later adulthood at each life stage the committee

studied mental health physical health risks and protective factors health services and contextual influences to advance understanding of the health needs of all lgbt individuals the report finds that researchers need more data about the demographics of these populations improved methods for collecting and analyzing data and an increased participation of sexual and gender minorities in research the health of lesbian gay bisexual and transgender people is a valuable resource for policymakers federal agencies including the national institute of health nih lgbt advocacy groups clinicians and service providers why do social movements take the forms they do how do activists efforts and beliefs interact with the cultural and political contexts in which they work why do activists take particular strategic paths and how do their strategies affect the course and impact of the movement social movements aims to bridge the gap between political opportunities theorists who look at the circumstances and effects of social movement efforts and collective identity theorists who focus on the reconstruction of meaning and identity through collective action the volume brings together scholars from a variety of perspectives to consider the intersections of opportunities and identities structures and cultures in social movements representing a new generation of social movement theory the contributors build bridges between political opportunities and collective identity paradigms between analyses of movements internal dynamics and their external contexts between approaches that emphasize structure and those that emphasize culture they cover a wide range of case studies from both the u s and western europe as well as from less developed countries movements include feminist organizing in the u s and india lesbian gay movements revolutionary movements in burma the philippines and indonesia labor campaigns in england and south africa civil rights movements community organizing political party organizing in canada student movements of the left and right and the religious right many chapters also pay explicit attention to the dynamics of gender race and class in social movements combining a variety of perspectives on a wide range of topics the contributors synthetic approach shifts the field of social movements forward in important new directions activist identity development of transgender social justice activists and educators introduces a new field to education for social change it explores how dominant power structures in society shape life

experiences of trans and gender non conforming people and their activist identity development across scholarship on gender and sexuality binaries like female versus male and gay versus straight have been problematized as a symbol of the stigmatization and erasure of non normative subjects and practices the chapters in queer excursions offer a series of distinct perspectives on these binaries as well as on a number of other less immediately apparent dichotomies that nevertheless permeate the gendered and sexual lives of speakers several chapters focus on the limiting or misleading qualities of binaristic analyses while others suggest that binaries are a crucial component of social meaning within particular communities of study rather than simply accepting binary structures as inevitable or discarding them from our analyses entirely based on their oppressive or reductionary qualities this volume advocates for a re theorization of the binary that affords more complex and contextually grounded engagement with speakers own orientations to dichotomous systems it is from this perspective that contributors identify a number of diverging conceptualizations of binaries including those that are non mutually exclusive those that liberate in the same moment that they constrain those that are imposed implicitly by researchers and those that re contextualize familiar divisions with innovative meanings each chapter offers a unique perspective on locally salient linguistic practices that help constitute gender and sexuality in marginalized communities as a collection queer excursions argues that researchers must be careful to avoid the assumption that our own preconceptions about binary social structures will be shared by the communities we study the special period in cuba was an extended era of economic depression starting in the early 1990s characterized by the collapse of revolutionary values and social norms and a way of life conducted by improvised solutions for survival including hustling and sex work during this time there developed a thriving though constantly harassed and destabilized clandestine gay scene known as the ambiente in the course of eight visits between 1995 and 2007 the last dozen years of fidel castro s reign moshe morad became absorbed in havana s gay scene where he created a wide social network attended numerous secret gatherings from clandestine parties to religious rituals and observed patterns of behavior and communication he discovered the role of music in this scene as a marker of identity a source

of queer codifications and identifications a medium of interaction an outlet for emotion and a way to escape from a reality of scarcity oppression and despair morad identified and conducted his research in different types of musical space from illegal clandestine parties held in changing locations to ballet halls drag show bars private living rooms and kitchens and santería religious ceremonies in this important study the first on the subject he argues that music plays a central role in providing the physical emotional and conceptual spaces which constitute this scene and in the formation of a new hybrid gay identity in special period cuba taking lesbians in singapore as a case study this book explores the possibility of a modern gay identity in a postcolonial society that is not dependent on western queer norms it looks at the core question of how this identity can be reconciled with local culture and how it relates to global modernities and dominant understandings of what it means to be queer it engages with debates about globalization post colonialism and sexuality while emphasising the specificity diversity and interconnectedness of local lesbian sexualities this title was first published in 2002 the trade union movement in twentieth century britain has been a cornerstone for society s marginalized members women disabled people lesbians and gay men and people from black and ethnic minority communities as these groups of workers self organized to reform their unions they built a bridge between the old social movement based around class position and labour identity and the new social movements based around civil rights and status stratifications this book presents a detailed look at self organization within public sector unions through the emergence of four self organized groups within nalgo and later unison drawing upon unique insider knowledge of the alliances and antipathies between the self organized groups and the host union the book also provides fascinating revelations of the tensions between self organized groups themselves this study will be essential reading for students of political sociology and industrial relations based on surveys and interviews of two hundred gay men peter nardi s new study presents the first book length examination of contemporary urban gay men s friendships expertly weaving historical and sociological research on friendship with firsthand information nardi argues that friendship is the central organizing element of gay men s lives through friendship gay identities and communities are created transformed

maintained and reproduced nardi explores the meaning of friends to some gay men how friends often become a surrogate family how sexual behavior and attraction affects these friendships and how for many friends mean more and last longer than romantic relationships while looking at the psychological joys and sorrows of friendship he also considers the cultural constraints limiting gay men in contemporary urban america especially those that deal with dominant images of masculinity and heterosexuality and how they relate to friendship by listening to gay men talk about their interactions nardi offers a rare glimpse into the mechanisms of gay life we learn how gay men meet their friends what they typically do and talk about and how these strong relationships contain the roots of larger cultural forces such as social movements and gay identities and neighborhoods nardi also points out the political and social consequences when friendships fail to provide support against oppression an intimate and informative look at gay life in urban america gay men s friendships ultimately shows how these relationships challenge the gender order of our society by questioning how masculinity is constructed and by offering a model for a more creative blending of gay and heterosexual masculinity the blackwell companion to social movements is a compilation of original state of the art essays by internationally recognized scholars on an array of topics in the field of social movement studies contains original state of the art essays by internationally recognized scholars covers a wide array of topics in the field of social movement studies features a valuable introduction by the editors which maps the field and helps situate the study of social movements within other disciplines includes coverage of historical political and cultural contexts leadership organizational dynamics social networks and participation consequences and outcomes and case studies of major social movements offers the most comprehensive discussion of social movements available a pioneering collection of essays which give a sample of some of the most interesting work being done on the lesbian and gay movements in various third world countries including brazil mexico kenya india and china the eleven essays are edited by peter drucker a well respected academic in the field of gay and lesbian studies contributors include dennis altman margaret randall and mark gevisser for decades singapore s gay activists have sought equality and justice in a state where law is used to stifle

basic civil and political liberties in her groundbreaking book mobilizing gay singapore lynette chua asks what does a social movement look like in an authoritarian state she takes an expansive view of the gay movement to examine its emergence development strategies and tactics as well as the roles of law and rights in social processes chua tells this important story using in depth interviews with gay activists observations of the movement s activities including pink dot events where thousands of singaporeans gather in annual celebrations of gay pride movement documents government statements and media reports she shows how activists deploy pragmatic resistance to gain visibility and support tackle political norms that suppress dissent and deal with police harassment while avoiding direct confrontations with the law mobilizing gay singapore also addresses how these brave locally engaged citizens come out into the open as gay activists and expand and diversify their efforts in the global queer political movement mignon moore s title says it all invisible families scholarship on lesbian and gay issues has been slow to recognize the importance of children and family among those in same sex relationships and has paid scant attention to racial minorities nor have students of african american life given much attention to black lesbians and gay men we are left with the unfortunate impression to paraphrase the authors of but some of us are brave that all the lesbians and gays are white and all the blacks are heterosexual this book stands as a significant corrective to these multiple myopias offering a nuanced account of the kinds of pressures black women raising children with female partners encounter and revealing the creativity and resilience they bring to the struggle ellen lewin university of iowa author of gay fatherhood narratives of family and citizenship in america invisible families shakes up longstanding theoretical conceptualizations of racial identity family formation and motherhood contesting basic assumptions about black families tightly conceptualized and highly engaging kerry ann rockquemore author of raising biracial children social movements around the world have used a wide variety of protest tactics to bring about enormous social changes influencing cultural arrangements public opinion and government policies in the process this concise yet in depth primer provides a broad overview of theoretical issues in the study of social movements illustrating key concepts with a series of case studies it offers engaging analyses of the protest cycle of the 1960s the

women's movement the LGBT movement the environmental movement right wing movements and global social justice movements author Suzanne Staggenborg examines these social movements in terms of their strategies and tactics the organizational challenges they faced and the roles that the mass media and counter movements played in determining their successes and failures never highlight a book again virtually all of the testable terms concepts persons places and events from the textbook are included cram101 just the facts101 studyguides give all of the outlines highlights notes and quizzes for your textbook with optional online comprehensive practice tests only cram101 is textbook specific accompanys 9781412900119 the author proposes that gay identity is one of the great myths of our age he sets forth the premise that there exists an evident distinction between 1 homosexual feelings 2 homosexual behavior and 3 the homosexual role the argument presented here is that homosexual feelings play a minor part in becoming gay which chiefly is the result of adopting the homosexual role the gay myth is responsible for the creation of the gay community which is an assemblage not of people who share the same sexual orientation they don't but of those who have adopted the gay role sexuality and sexual identity have been relatively marginalized areas in both social work education and practice however changes in policy and legislation in the UK and other countries over the past decade have brought discussions of sexuality into the mainstream public service agenda in social work and social care gay and lesbian citizenship rights have been explicitly recognised in the fields of adoption and fostering new regulations and guidance have helped improve and develop practice around assessment and intervention it remains the case however that sex is often perceived as a problem area within social work and social care discussed only in relation to sexually diverse communities or in the realm of dysfunction or pathology this collection aims to generate a more proactive and challenging discussion of sexuality and sexual identity in social work its starting point is that sexuality is an essential aspect of individual identity that users must be able to express their sexuality and that it is essential for social workers to be able to respond and discuss sexual issues appropriately the contributions are informed by feminist research considering in particular the experiences of women working in and using social care services since the 1990s in addition to a consideration of

the wider policy legislative and service providers perspectives the book includes reflective accounts as well as research led contributions offering a comprehensive and balanced account of this important field which aims to inform both theory and practice the realms of consumption have typically been seen to be distinct from those of work and production this book examines how contemporary rhetorics and discourses of organizational change are breaking down such distinctions with significant implications for the construction of subjectivities and identities at work in particular paul du gay shows how the capacities and predispositions required of consumers and those required of employees are increasingly difficult to distinguish both consumers and employees are represented as autonomous responsible calculating individuals they are constituted as such in the language of consumer cultures and the all pervasive discourses of enterprise whereby persons are required to be this original introductory text encourages students to consider the complex role that media industries play in producing discourses about sexuality taking a critical cultural studies approach the authors weave together theory syntheses of existing research and original analysis of contemporary media examples in order to explore the following key areas of debate an historical overview of lgbtq representations the advantages and limitations of media visibility including a discussion of the strengths and limitations of stereotype research and the quest for positive representations the role of consumer culture in constructing narrowly defined lgbtq images strategies of mainstream media resistance by lgbtq community members including oppositional queer reading strategies and the production of media products by and for the lgbtq community the use of comedy and camp as a popular narrative device in lgbtq portrayals including a discussion of how satire functions based on specific reading positions and an interrogation of the current vogue of irony the treatment of lgbtq sexualities as media spectacle which will include a section on the common use of spectacle as a frame for understanding the experience of transgendered individuals an exploration of the crucial metaphor of the closet as an enduring organizing principle for lgbtq identity and the relationship between the closet and tragic stories of gayness and the tabloid obsession with lgbtq celebrities the emergence of post gay discourses that assume sexual equality reject sexual and gender labels and or attempt to equate or altogether erase sexual

gendered raced classed differences the complex relationship between mediated sexual identities and gender oppression considering how hegemonic masculinity has shifted in response to increased gay visibility and the media's role in constructing cultural understandings of heterosexuality particularly in response to broader acceptance of sexual and gender difference rather than focusing on representations as reflections that can be distorted or on what is a correct representation or practice the authors encourage students to examine media as a site of negotiation about the relationship between sexuality and identity that people use to make sense of both themselves and others examine how community organizing can help eliminate sexual oppression this book presents insights from activists working in dramatically diverse cultures toward a common goal the eradication of sexual oppression contributors share their experiences in organizing for sexual emancipation in many parts of the world documenting progress in transforming oppressive sexual attitudes policies and practices while acknowledging the long road to sexual democracy that remains to be traveled community organizing against homophobia and heterosexism the world through rainbow colored glasses highlights the importance of building alliances with social service providers and community organizers of physical space as an element of identity building of understanding the tension between members of sexual minority communities and their other communities of belonging and the transformation of individual efforts into movements necessary to affect long term social change community organizing against homophobia and heterosexism presents chapters that focus on community organizing against homophobia and heterosexism bringing to light the history and contemporary face of resistance in global contexts the book highlights practical actions to liberate sexual and gender expressions including the challenge of organizing within a two spirit lgbt people of aboriginal descent community in montreal the organization of tongzhi lgbt and their supporters rights in hong kong the work of yoesuf a muslim association that works on battling homophobia and xenophobia in communities in the netherlands the foundation of galf a peruvian feminist group dedicated to organizing against lesbophobia and heterosexism the development of galz the gay liberation movement in zimbabwe community organizing against homophobia and heterosexism the world through rainbow colored glasses is an essential resource for social service

professionals community activists and anyone else working to eliminate sexual oppression in all forms an understanding of identity is fundamental to a complete understanding of organizational life while conventional management textbooks nod to in groups cohesion and discrimination this text offers instead a deeper more nuanced understanding of why people groups and organizations behave the way they do with conceptions of identity perhaps less stable than they have ever been the authors make complex theoretical issues accessible to the reader through the use of lively examples from popular culture the authors present an overview of the key issues as well as an examination of cutting edge research and topical forces currently re defining identity such as globalisation the fair trade movement and online identities this text is a succinct relevant and exciting overview of the field of identity studies as it relates to business and management and applied social sciences an is an invaluable resource to undergraduate and postgraduate students of management on any course that has an identity component this book is the first to offer an in depth analysis on the strategic deployment of a straight identity by an lgbt organization drawing on the example set by feminists this textbook explores the problems of pursuing lesbian and gay political agendas within the present structure of democracy using an interdisciplinary approach the author connects the analysis of lesbian and gay identities in sociology and cultural studies with the analysis of democracy in political theory this paves the way for a consideration of the implications of sociological theories of sexuality for democratic theory and practice engaging with queer theory the dominant perspective in the area of sexual identity and politics the author offers a critique of many of the theorists including judith butler and diana fuss and directions within this field this approach offers a broad focus on the issues of citizenship and legal social and political policies with which queer theorists are involved up to date with current debates this book reflects the need to return from an inaccessible level of abstract theory it grounds ideas about sexuality in material and political realities by assessing the possibility of articulating a sociological view of the sexual self which can be translated into effective political strategies unlike many social movements the gay and lesbian struggle for visibility and rights has succeeded in combining a unified group identity with the celebration of individual

differences forging gay identities explores how this happened tracing the evolution of gay life and organizations in san francisco from the 1950s to the mid 1990s there has been a dramatic increase in the percentage of the us population that is not religious however there is to date very little research on the social movement that is organizing to serve the needs of and advocate for the nonreligious in the us this is a book about the rise and structure of organized secularism in the united states by organized secularism we mean the efforts of nonreligious individuals to build institutions networks and ultimately a movement that serves their interests in a predominantly religious society researchers from various fields address questions such as what secularist organizations exist who are the members of these organizations what kinds of organizations do they create what functions do these organizations provide for their members how do the secularist organizations of today compare to those of the past and what is their likely impact on the future of secularism for anyone trying to understand the rise of the nonreligious in the us this book will provide valuable insights into organized efforts to normalize their worldview and advocate for their equal treatment in society how do asian cultures construct queer genders sexualities and eroticism gay and lesbian asia demonstrates the astonishing diversity of gay lesbian bisexual and transgendered identities in countries including korea thailand malaysia china india indonesia singapore and the philippines although many asian cultures borrow the language of the west when discussing queerness the attitudes relationships and roles described are quite different gay and lesbian asia discusses cultural issues as well as the unique political position of gays in asian societies for example the thai concept of phet eroticized gender is quite different from the western view that classifies people by the sex of the partners they desire not by their level of masculine or feminine traits similarly some gay and lesbian chinese people come home rather than come out by bringing their partners into the extended family they can maintain the filial relationships that define them while being able to love whom they choose the essays in gay and lesbian asia cover a broad range of approaches and subjects globalization theory exploring the political and cultural ramifications of the western gay identity movement foucauldian discourse on sexuality and sharply distinct erotic cultures political and cultural analyses of gay

and lesbian comradeship and filial relationships in chinese societies research on the t and po lesbians similar to butch and femme in malaysian bars the formation of gay cybercommunities in asia the effects of class distinctions on jakarta lesbians studies of local historical forms of homoeroticism and transgenderism gay and lesbian asia continues haworth s landmark series of books on gay and lesbian issues in asia and australia along with tongzhi politics of same sex eroticism in chinese societies queer asian cinema multicultural queer australian narratives gays and lesbians in asia and the pacific and lady boys tom boys rent boys male and female homosexualities in contemporary thailand this book presents some of the most original powerful current thought available on cultural political sexual and gender issues for queer subcultures within asian cultures in the past twelve years research into homosexuality has undergone a major shift in emphasis a concern with documenting the etiology treatment and psychological adjustment of homosexuals has been replaced by an interest in understanding how people develop homosexual identities that is organized perceptions of themselves as homosexuals in relation to sexual and romantic settings people are not born with perceptions of themselves as homosexual bisexual or heterosexual sexual identities evolve slowly over a long period of time this book develops an ideal typical model of homosexual identity formation that represents a synthesis of and elaboration on previous theorizing and research on the subject the model draws heavily upon accounts provided by homosexuals themselves the model developed is unique in four major ways it is grounded in current research and theory it describes identity formation in both lesbians and gay males it notes similarities as well as differences between the sexes in homosexual identity development and it explains differences between gay males and lesbians in terms of their experiences with gender role socialization this is the first book to differentiate analytically the constructs of self self concept identity and homosexual identity within a unified theoretical framework with one major exception these conceptual distinctions have not been drawn in previous discussions of homosexual identity and this lack has contributed to conceptual disarray the theoretical approach adopted here is symbolic interactionism a social psychological perspective within the discipline of sociology there is a sharp disagreement among theorists about the nature and meaning of homosexual

identities do homosexuals identities represent a confusion of being with doing the mistaken belief that one is what one does the equation of the entire self with one type of behavior do homosexual identities represent one of several major interests that are constructed socially and defined as reflecting essential facets of personality in 1991 columbia university s one thousand clerical workers launched a successful campaign for justice in their workplace this diverse union two thirds black and latina three fourths women was committed to creating an inclusive movement organization and to fighting for all kinds of justice how could they address the many race and gender injustices members faced avoid schism and maintain the unity needed to win sharon kurtz an experienced union activist and former clerical worker herself was welcomed into the union and pursued these questions using this case study and secondary studies of sister clerical unions at yale and harvard she examines the challenges and potential of identity politics in labor movements with the columbia strike as a point of departure kurtz argues that identity politics are valuable for mobilizing groups but often exclude members and their experiences of oppression however kurtz believes that identity politics should not be abandoned as a component in building movements but should be reframed as multi identity politics in the end she shows an approach to organizing with great potential impact not only for labor unions but for any social movement how to be a real gay takes its title from a series of workshops organized by gay activists in the small town of ermelo south africa focusing on everyday practices of gayness in hair salons churches taverns and meeting halls the book explores the ambivalent space that homosexuality occupies in the newly democratic south africa on the one hand protection of gay rights is a litmus test for the country s constitutional democracy yet on the other homosexuality is seen to threaten traditional values customs and beliefs the book is the first to emerge that recounts how gays in small town south africa negotiate this difficult symbolic terrain how do discourses on international gay and lesbian social movements and gay equality hang together with local views on identity gender and relationships why do small town gays harness fashion style and glamour in the making and sustaining of identity how do economically vulnerable gays organize access resources and create networks linking small towns to cities how to be a real gay delves to the core of what it means to be the

other in contexts of risk exclusion and inclusion in its richly textured way the book also speaks to the tremendous capacity of gays to imagine and create life worlds in a harsh environment this book overturns the conventional thinking about organization and identity and puts in its place a wholly new theoretical synthesis it is not just an extraordinarily incisive commentary on modern life but it is also a key to thinking about identity in new ways which will prove an indispensable guide as we move beyond social constructionism remarkable nigel thrift vice chancellor the university of warwick i have to say that as usual i find very refreshing paul du gay s courageous and unconventional approach a clarity of vision that i find very appealing professor marilyn strathern university of cambridge like many other popular academic terms identity has been asked to do so much work that it has often ended up doing none at all and as a consequence there has been a recent turn away from identity work in this book paul du gay moves identity theory in a new direction offering a distinctive approach to studying how persons human and non human are put together or assembled how their identities are formed he does through an engagement with a range of work in the social sciences humanities and in organization studies which privileges the business of description over metaphysical speculation and epochalist assertion at the heart of the book is an approach to the material cultural making up of persons that involves a shift away from general social and cultural accounts concerning the formation of subjectivity and identity towards an understanding of the specific forms of personhood that individuals acquire through their immersion in and subjection to particular normative and technical regimes of conduct the book is written for postgraduate students and researchers interested in debates about identity subjectivity and personhood in a range of disciplines especially those in sociology social anthropology geography and organization and management studies unlike many social movements the gay and lesbian struggle for visibility and rights has succeeded in combining a unified group identity with the celebration of individual differences forging gay identities explores how this happened tracing the evolution of gay life and organizations in san francisco from the 1950s to the mid 1990s liberal democracy has provided a certain degree of lesbian and gay rights but those rights as we now know are not unlimited and they continue to be the focus of efforts by lesbian and gay

movements in the united states to promote social change in this compelling critique craig rimmerman looks at the past present and future of the movements to analyze whether it is possible for them to link identity concerns with a progressive coalition for political social and gender change one that take into account race class and gender inequalities enriched by eight years of interviews in washington d c and new york city and by the author s experience as a capitol hill staffer from identity to politics will provoke discussion in classrooms and caucus rooms across the united states author note craig a rimmerman is professor of political science at hobart and william smith colleges he is the author of several books including the new citizenship unconventional politics activism and service gay life has become increasingly open in the last decade in beyond the closet steven seidman a well known author and leading scholar in sexuality is the first to chronicle this lifestyle change and to look at the lives of contemporary gays and lesbians to see how their out status has changed this compelling well written and smart account is an important step forward for the gay and lesbian community

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