social death lisa marie cacho

Understanding Social Death Through the Work of Lisa Marie Cacho

social death lisa marie cacho is a powerful concept that delves into the experiences of exclusion, marginalization, and erasure faced by certain groups in society. Lisa Marie Cacho, a renowned scholar and sociologist, has extensively explored this phenomenon, particularly focusing on how race, gender, and violence intersect to create conditions where individuals or communities experience social invisibility or symbolic annihilation. Her work sheds light on the subtle and overt mechanisms that contribute to social death, offering a nuanced understanding that is crucial for anyone interested in social justice, critical race theory, or cultural studies.

Who is Lisa Marie Cacho?

Lisa Marie Cacho is an academic whose research primarily addresses issues of race, gender, violence, and social inequality. She is best known for her insightful analysis of how systemic structures perpetuate social death—where marginalized populations are socially erased or excluded from the fabric of society. Through her interdisciplinary approach, combining sociology, ethnic studies, and feminist theory, Cacho has contributed significantly to contemporary conversations about power, identity, and social justice.

The Concept of Social Death in Cacho's Work

The term "social death" may sound abstract, but it refers to very tangible experiences. Social death involves being treated as if one is invisible, non-existent, or irrelevant within social contexts. This can mean exclusion from social, economic, or political participation and often manifests through systemic violence, discrimination, and stigmatization.

Cacho's approach to social death is multifaceted. She highlights how social death is not merely about physical absence or literal death but is deeply tied to symbolic erasure and the denial of personhood. This denial can happen through institutional neglect, cultural representations, or interpersonal interactions that reinforce marginalization.

Intersectionality and Social Death

One of the critical aspects of Lisa Marie Cacho's analysis is her use of intersectionality—the idea that social categories such as race, gender, class, and sexuality intersect to create unique experiences of oppression. Cacho demonstrates how social death disproportionately affects women of color, queer individuals, and other marginalized groups because their identities challenge dominant social norms.

For example, in her research, Cacho explores how violence against women of color is often rendered invisible by mainstream society, contributing to a form of social death where their suffering is ignored or minimized. This invisibility serves to uphold systemic inequalities by failing to acknowledge or

Social Death and Structural Violence

Structural violence refers to social structures or institutions that harm people by preventing them from meeting their basic needs. Lisa Marie Cacho connects social death with structural violence by illustrating how systems like the criminal justice system, economic inequality, and racial segregation contribute to the social erasure of marginalized populations.

The Role of State Violence

State violence is a significant factor in enforcing social death. Cacho's work often critiques how state institutions—such as the police, immigration authorities, and social services—enforce policies that disproportionately harm marginalized communities. For instance, over-policing in communities of color or the criminalization of poverty can lead to social death by isolating individuals from society and denying them access to resources or legal protections.

Economic Marginalization and Social Death

Economic exclusion is another form of social death discussed by Cacho. When individuals are systematically denied economic opportunities, they become socially dead in the sense that their full participation in society is blocked. This can happen through unemployment, underemployment, or wage disparities that disproportionately affect marginalized groups.

Why Social Death Matters Today

Understanding social death through Lisa Marie Cacho's lens is especially relevant in today's sociopolitical climate. Issues such as systemic racism, gender-based violence, and mass incarceration continue to create environments where social death occurs. Cacho's scholarship challenges us to recognize and address these forms of erasure to build a more inclusive society.

Social Death in Contemporary Movements

Movements like Black Lives Matter and #MeToo resonate with the concept of social death as they seek to counteract the invisibility imposed on marginalized groups. By bringing stories of violence, discrimination, and exclusion to public attention, these movements fight against social death and demand recognition and justice. Cacho's work provides a theoretical foundation for understanding why these movements are vital in dismantling structures that perpetuate social death.

Practical Insights from Lisa Marie Cacho's Research

Beyond theory, Cacho's research offers valuable insights on how to combat social death. Here are some key takeaways:

- **Amplify marginalized voices:** Giving space for those experiencing social death to share their stories is crucial in restoring visibility and agency.
- **Challenge institutional practices:** Reforming policies and practices in criminal justice, healthcare, and education can reduce structural violence that leads to social death.
- **Promote intersectional solidarity:** Building alliances across different marginalized groups strengthens collective resistance against social erasure.
- **Educate about social death:** Raising awareness through academic work, media, and public discourse helps society understand and recognize the forms of social death occurring around them.

The Broader Impact of Social Death Research

Lisa Marie Cacho's examination of social death extends beyond academic circles. It influences activists, policymakers, and educators who seek to create social systems that are more equitable and inclusive. By understanding social death as a lived experience rather than an abstract concept, stakeholders are better equipped to design interventions that restore dignity and visibility to those affected.

Her work also encourages a rethinking of how society defines personhood and belonging, pushing against narratives that marginalize based on identity or circumstance. This has implications for everything from social policy to cultural representation.

Exploring social death through the lens of Lisa Marie Cacho not only deepens our understanding of systemic inequalities but also inspires a commitment to social change. Her scholarship invites us to recognize the humanity of those who are often rendered invisible and to work collectively toward a society where no one experiences social death.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Lisa Marie Cacho and what is her work on social death?

Lisa Marie Cacho is a scholar and author known for her critical work on issues of race, gender, and social justice. Her work on social death examines the ways marginalized groups experience exclusion, dehumanization, and systemic violence that render them socially 'dead' in societal contexts.

What does the concept of social death mean in Lisa Marie Cacho's research?

In Lisa Marie Cacho's research, social death refers to the condition where individuals or groups are systematically excluded, marginalized, and stripped of their social identity and humanity, often through institutionalized racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression.

How does Lisa Marie Cacho link social death to systemic violence?

Lisa Marie Cacho links social death to systemic violence by illustrating how policies, social structures, and cultural narratives perpetuate harm and invisibility towards marginalized communities, effectively erasing their presence and rights within society.

What communities does Lisa Marie Cacho focus on in her analysis of social death?

Lisa Marie Cacho primarily focuses on communities of color, especially Black and Latina women, as well as other marginalized groups who face intersecting systems of oppression that contribute to their social death.

How can understanding social death help in addressing social justice issues according to Lisa Marie Cacho?

Understanding social death helps highlight the depth of exclusion and dehumanization faced by marginalized groups, which is crucial for developing more effective social justice strategies that address root causes rather than just symptoms of inequality.

What are some examples of social death discussed by Lisa Marie Cacho?

Examples discussed by Lisa Marie Cacho include the criminalization and incarceration of people of color, police violence, and systemic neglect in healthcare and social services that collectively diminish the social and political presence of marginalized individuals.

Has Lisa Marie Cacho proposed any solutions or interventions to combat social death?

Lisa Marie Cacho advocates for transformative justice approaches, community empowerment, and policy reforms that recognize and restore the humanity and rights of marginalized groups as ways to combat social death and promote social inclusion.

Additional Resources

Social Death Lisa Marie Cacho: An Analytical Perspective on Marginalization and Identity

social death lisa marie cacho represents a pivotal concept in understanding the nuanced intersections of race, gender, and systemic violence. Lisa Marie Cacho, a prominent scholar in critical race theory and feminist studies, delves into the phenomenon of social death to elucidate the lived experiences of marginalized communities, particularly women of color subjected to state and societal neglect. This article aims to dissect Cacho's contributions to the discourse on social death, exploring its implications for social justice, identity formation, and structural oppression.

Understanding Social Death in Lisa Marie Cacho's Work

Social death, broadly defined, refers to the condition in which individuals or groups are systematically excluded from social recognition, participation, and rights, effectively rendering them invisible or "dead" within social frameworks. Lisa Marie Cacho's scholarship advances this concept by situating social death within the context of racialized and gendered violence, especially in relation to sexual violence and institutional abandonment.

In her critical analyses, Cacho argues that social death is not merely an abstract sociological term but a lived reality that manifests through policies, cultural practices, and legal systems. For instance, her work highlights how immigrant women, particularly those of color, experience social death when their identities and bodies are rendered disposable through immigration laws and anti-violence statutes that fail to protect them adequately.

Key Themes in Cacho's Exploration of Social Death

At the core of Cacho's examination are themes of invisibility, erasure, and disposability. She interrogates how social institutions contribute to the erasure of certain populations by denying them protection, recognition, and justice. This process of erasure is compounded for women of color who encounter intersecting oppressions related to race, gender, class, and citizenship status.

One of the most salient features of Cacho's framework is the intersectionality of social death. She argues that the phenomenon cannot be understood in isolation from the multiple axes of identity and oppression that intersect to produce social death. This intersectional approach is crucial for policy reform and advocacy, as it calls for nuanced responses that address the complex realities of marginalized individuals.

Social Death and Structural Violence: Comparative Insights

Comparing Lisa Marie Cacho's concept of social death with related frameworks reveals both its uniqueness and its broader applicability. For example, Orlando Patterson's classical sociological definition of social death focused on slavery and the literal stripping away of personhood. In contrast, Cacho expands this to include contemporary social and political mechanisms that perpetuate exclusion and invisibility.

Furthermore, Cacho's analysis intersects with critical race theory's emphasis on systemic racism and

feminist critiques of patriarchal violence. This synthesis allows for a more comprehensive understanding of how social death operates within modern institutions such as the criminal justice system, immigration enforcement, and healthcare.

The Role of State and Law in Perpetuating Social Death

Cacho's research underscores the role of the state and legal frameworks in both enacting and contesting social death. Laws that criminalize immigrants, for example, often contribute to their social death by restricting access to resources, legal protections, and social services. Similarly, the failure of law enforcement agencies to adequately address sexual violence against marginalized women reflects institutional complicity in social death.

However, Cacho also identifies spaces of resistance and contestation where marginalized communities challenge social death. Activism, community organizing, and legal advocacy emerge as critical tools to reclaim social recognition and demand justice.

Implications for Social Policy and Advocacy

The insights gleaned from Lisa Marie Cacho's exploration of social death offer valuable guidance for social policy and advocacy. Recognizing social death as a multidimensional process necessitates interventions that are culturally sensitive, intersectional, and community-driven.

- **Policy Reform:** Advocates must push for reforms that dismantle exclusionary laws and create inclusive protections for vulnerable populations.
- **Community Empowerment:** Supporting grassroots movements that give voice to those experiencing social death is essential for sustainable change.
- **Intersectional Approaches:** Addressing social death requires frameworks that account for race, gender, class, and immigration status simultaneously.

These strategies align with Cacho's call to recognize the humanity of those subjected to social death and to transform social structures that perpetuate marginalization.

Challenges and Critiques

While Lisa Marie Cacho's conceptualization of social death is widely influential, it is not without challenges. Some critiques point to the difficulty of operationalizing social death in empirical research due to its abstract nature. Others argue that the focus on social death may risk pathologizing marginalized communities rather than emphasizing their agency and resilience.

Nevertheless, Cacho's work remains a foundational contribution that provokes critical reflection on

Conclusion: The Enduring Relevance of Social Death in Contemporary Discourse

The concept of social death as articulated by Lisa Marie Cacho continues to resonate in contemporary discussions about systemic oppression and social justice. By illuminating the mechanisms through which marginalized individuals are rendered invisible and disposable, Cacho challenges scholars, policymakers, and activists to rethink the structures that govern social inclusion.

Her intersectional and nuanced approach offers a vital lens for understanding the complexities of identity, power, and resistance. As social movements increasingly address issues of racial justice, gender equity, and immigrant rights, the framework of social death remains an essential analytical tool for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Social Death Lisa Marie Cacho

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social death lisa marie cacho: Self Help Graphics at Fifty Tatiana Reinoza, Karen Mary Davalos, 2023-04-25 Self Help Graphics at Fifty celebrates the ongoing legacy of an institution which had profound aesthetic, economic, and political impact on the formation of Chicanx and Latinx art in the United States. Officially launched in 1973 during the Chicano Movement by Italian-American Franciscan nun and artist Sister Karen Boccalero and queer Mexican artists Carlos Bueno and Antonio Ibaänez, Self Help Graphics served on the cultural front of the movement. The institution's commitments to art, dignity for all, and pride in ethnic heritage appear in every aspect of programming, including the Dâia de los Muertos festival; the Barrio Mobile Art Studio, which brings art education to underserved schools; and the printmaking program, which offers an accessible medium infused with activist aims. Looking at the multiple genealogies of art that intersect in East Los Angeles, Self Help Graphics at Fifty bears witness to the organization's influential role in US and global art histories--

social death lisa marie cacho: Black to Nature Stefanie K. Dunning, 2021-04-22 In Black to Nature: Pastoral Return and African American Culture, author Stefanie K. Dunning considers both popular and literary texts that range from Beyoncé's Lemonade to Jesmyn Ward's Salvage the Bones. These key works restage Black women in relation to nature. Dunning argues that depictions of protagonists who return to pastoral settings contest the violent and racist history that incentivized Black disavowal of the natural world. Dunning offers an original theoretical paradigm for thinking through race and nature by showing that diverse constructions of nature in these texts are deployed as a means of rescrambling the teleology of the Western progress narrative. In a series of fascinating close readings of contemporary Black texts, she reveals how a range of artists evoke nature to suggest that interbeing with nature signals a call for what Jared Sexton calls "the dream of

Black Studies"—abolition. Black to Nature thus offers nuanced readings that advance an emerging body of critical and creative work at the nexus of Blackness, gender, and nature. Written in a clear, approachable, and multilayered style that aims to be as poignant as nature itself, the volume offers a unique combination of theoretical breadth, narrative beauty, and broader perspective that suggests it will be a foundational text in a new critical turn towards framing nature within a cultural studies context.

social death lisa marie cacho: Remaking a Life Celeste Watkins-Hayes, 2019-08-20 In the face of life-threatening news, how does our view of life change—and what do we do it transform it? Remaking a Life uses the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a lens to understand how women generate radical improvements in their social well being in the face of social stigma and economic disadvantage. Drawing on interviews with nationally recognized AIDS activists as well as over one hundred Chicago-based women living with HIV/AIDS, Celeste Watkins-Hayes takes readers on an uplifting journey through women's transformative projects, a multidimensional process in which women shift their approach to their physical, social, economic, and political survival, thereby changing their viewpoint of "dying from" AIDS to "living with" it. With an eye towards improving the lives of women, Remaking a Life provides techniques to encourage private, nonprofit, and government agencies to successfully collaborate, and shares policy ideas with the hope of alleviating the injuries of inequality faced by those living with HIV/AIDS everyday.

social death lisa marie cacho: Criminal Genius in African American and US Literature, 1793–1845 Erin Forbes, 2024-02-06 How did creative genius develop in tandem with the criminalization of Blackness in the early United States? In Criminal Genius in African American and US Literature, 1793–1845, Erin Forbes uncovers a model of racialized, collective agency in American literature and culture. Identifying creative genius in the figure of the convict, the zombie, the outlaw, the insurgent, and the fugitive, Forbes deepens our understanding of the historical relationship between criminality and Blackness and reestablishes the importance of the aesthetic in early African American literature.

social death lisa marie cacho: Refugees in Extended Exile Jennifer Hyndman, Wenona Giles, 2016-10-04 This book argues that the international refugee regime and its 'temporary' humanitarian interventions have failed. Most refugees across the global live in 'protracted' conditions that extend from years to decades, without legal status that allows them to work and establish a home. It is contended that they become largely invisible to people based in the global North, and cease to remain fully human subjects with access to their political lives. Shifting the conversation away from the salient discourse of 'solutions' and technical fixes within state-centric international relations, the authors recover the subjectivity lost for those stuck in extended exile. The book first argues that humanitarian assistance to refugees remains vital to people's survival, even after the emergency phase is over. It then connects asylum politics in the global North with the intransigence of extended exile in the global South. By placing the urgent crises of protracted exile within a broader constellation of power relations, both historical and geographical, the authors present research and empirical findings gleaned from refugees in Iran, Kenya and Canada and from humanitarian and government workers. Each chapter reveals patterns of power circulating through the 'colonial present', Cold War legacies, and the global 'war on terror. Seeking to render legible the more quotidian struggles and livelihoods of people who find themselves defined as refugees, this book will be of great interest to international humanitarian agencies, as well as migration and refugee researchers, including scholars in refugee studies and human displacement, human security, globalization, immigration, and human rights.

social death lisa marie cacho: *Youth Gangs, Racism, and Schooling* Kevin D. Lam, 2015-09-01 Winner of the American Educational Studies Association 2016 Critics' Choice Book Award Youth Gangs, Racism, and Schooling examines the formation of Vietnamese American youth gangs in Southern California. Lam addresses the particularities of racism, violence, and schooling in an era of anti-youth legislation and frames gang members as post-colonial subjects, offering an alternative analysis toward humanization and decolonization.

social death lisa marie cacho: Fire Dreams Laura McTighe, 2024-01-22 For thirty-five years, the New Orleans-based Black feminist collective Women With A Vision (WWAV) has fought for the liberation of their communities through reproductive justice, harm reduction, abolition feminism, racial justice, and sex workers' rights. In 2012, shortly after one of WWAV's biggest organizing victories, arsonists firebombed and destroyed their headquarters. Fire Dreams is an innovative collaboration between WWAV and Laura McTighe, who work in community to build a social movement ethnography of the organization's post-arson rebirth. Rooting WWAV in the geography of the South and the living history of generations of Black feminist thinkers, McTighe and WWAV weave together stories from their founders' pioneering work during the Black HIV/AIDS crisis in the 1980s and their groundbreaking organizing to end criminalization in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina---with other movements for liberation as accomplices. Together, the authors refuse the logics of racial capitalism and share WWAV's own world-building knowledges, as well as their methods for living these Black feminist futures now. Fire Dreams is a vital toolkit for grassroots organizers, activist-scholars, and all those who dream to make the world otherwise.

social death lisa marie cacho: Central American Counterpoetics Karina Alma, 2024-03-19 Connecting past and present, Central American Counterpoetics proposes the concepts of rememory and counterpoetics as decolonial tools for studying the art, popular culture, literature music, and healing practices of Central America and the diaspora in the United States. Author Karina Alma offers a systemic method and artistic mode for unpacking social and political memory formation that resists dominant histories. Central American Counterpoetics responds to political repression through acts of creativity that prioritize the well-being of anticolonial communities. Building on Toni Morrison's theory of rememory, the volume examines the concept as an embodied experience of a sensory place and time lived in the here and now. By employing primary sources of image and word, interviews of creatives, and a critical self-reflection as a Salvadoran immigrant woman in academia, Alma's research breaks ground in subject matter and methods by considering cultural and historical ties across countries, regions, and traditions. The diverse creatives included explore critical perspectives on topics such as immigration, forced assimilation, maternal love, gender violence, community arts, and decolonization.

social death lisa marie cacho: Growing Up in the Gutter Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo, 2024-05-28 Growing Up in the Gutter: Diaspora & Comics is the first book-length exploration of contemporary graphic coming-of-age narratives written in the context of diasporic and immigrant communities in the United States by and for young, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and diasporic readers. The book analyzes the complex identity formation of first- and subsequent-generation diasporic protagonists in globalized rural and urban environments and dissects the implications that marginalized formative processes have for the genre in its graphic version.

social death lisa marie cacho: Blacks against Brown Charise L. Cheney, 2024-11-11 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954) is regarded as one of the most significant civil rights moments in American history. Historical observers have widely viewed this landmark Supreme Court decision as a significant sign of racial progress for African Americans. However, there is another historical perspective that tells a much more complex tale of Black resistance to the NAACP's decision to pursue desegregating America's public schools. This multifaceted history documents the intra-racial conflict among Black Topekans over the city's segregated schools. Black resistance to school integration challenges conventional narratives about Brown by highlighting community concerns about economic and educational opportunities for Black educators and students and Black residents' pride in all-Black schools. This history of the local story behind Brown v. Board contributes to a literature that provides a fuller and more complex perspective on African Americans and their relationship to Black education and segregated schools during the Jim Crow era.

social death lisa marie cacho: *A New Handbook of Rhetoric* Michele Kennerly, 2021-09-09 Like every discipline, Rhetorical Studies relies on a technical vocabulary to convey specialized concepts, but few disciplines rely so deeply on a set of terms developed so long ago. Pathos, kairos, doxa, topos—these and others originate from the so-called classical world, which has conferred on

them excessive authority. Without jettisoning these rhetorical terms altogether, this handbook addresses critiques of their ongoing relevance, explanatory power, and exclusionary effects. A New Handbook of Rhetoric inverts the terms of classical rhetoric by applying to them the alpha privative, a prefix that expresses absence. Adding the prefix α - to more than a dozen of the most important terms in the field, the contributors to this volume build a new vocabulary for rhetorical inquiry. Essays on apathy, akairos, adoxa, and atopos, among others, explore long-standing disciplinary habits, reveal the denials and privileges inherent in traditional rhetorical inquiry, and theorize new problems and methods. Using this vocabulary in an analysis of current politics, media, and technology, the essays illuminate aspects of contemporary culture that traditional rhetorical theory often overlooks. Innovative and groundbreaking, A New Handbook of Rhetoric at once draws on and unsettles ancient Greek rhetorical terms, opening new avenues for studying values, norms, and phenomena often stymied by the tradition. In addition to the editor, the contributors include Caddie Alford, Benjamin Firgens, Cory Geraths, Anthony J. Irizarry, Mari Lee Mifsud, John Muckelbauer, Bess R. H. Myers, Damien Smith Pfister, Nathaniel A. Rivers, and Alessandra Von Burg.

social death lisa marie cacho: 21 | 19 Alexandra Manglis, Kristen Case, 2019-08-13 Essays on the modern relevance of Thoreau, Whitman, Dickinson, and more "suggest the ways poetry might be both agitator and balm in times of social crisis" (Poets & Writers). The nineteenth century is often viewed as a golden age of American literature, a historical moment when national identity was emergent and ideals such as freedom, democracy, and individual agency were promising, even if belied in reality by violence and hypocrisy. The writers of this "American Renaissance"—Thoreau, Fuller, Whitman, Emerson, and Dickinson, among many others—produced a body of work that has been both celebrated and contested by following generations. As the twenty-first century unfolds in a United States characterized by deep divisions, diminished democracy, and dramatic transformation of identities, the editors of this singular book approached a dozen North American poets, asking them to engage with texts by their predecessors in a manner that avoids both aloofness from the past and too-easy elegy. The resulting essays, delving into topics including race and gun violence, dwell provocatively on the border between the lyrical and the scholarly, casting fresh critical light on the golden age of American literature and exploring a handful of texts not commonly included in its canon. A polyvocal collection that reflects the complexity of the cross-temporal encounter it enacts, 21 | 19 offers a re-reading of the "American Renaissance" and new possibilities for imaginative critical practice today. "Displaying a sophisticated sense of poetics as well as a good grasp of history and its implications for the present moment . . . [the editors] have done a remarkable job of bringing together such a challenging collection." —Harvard Review

social death lisa marie cacho: Covering the Border War Sang Hea Kil, 2019-11-08 Covering the Border War: How the News Media Create Crime, Race, Nation, and the USA-Mexico Divide examines the notion of the body politic in border newspaper coverage of the USA-Mexico divide and how the nation and immigration are racially imagined in crime news discourse, where whiteness is associated with order and brownness is associated with disorder in a variety of imaginative, nativist ways. By applying critical discourse analysis methodology to the Los Angeles Times, Arizona Republic, Albuquerque Journal, and Houston Chronicle during a peak epoch of border militarization policies (1993-2006), brownness emerges through a news crime frame that reflexively shows the values and meanings of whiteness and the nation. At the body scale, border crossings threaten the whiteness of the national body through suggestions of rape and disfigurement. Border news discourse feminizes the nation with nurturing resources and services under threat of immigrant "rape" as well as expresses racial anxiety about a "changing face" of the nation. Border news coverage constructs immigrants as home intruders at the house scale, both human and animal. Whiteness at this scale reflexively signifies a law-abiding, rightful owner of property protecting against criminal trespassing. Brown immigrants are also seen as wild animals, which constructs whiteness burdened with the task of animal management. Whiteness at the regional scale suggests a masculinized, militarized battleground or a settled region threatened by a brown, cataclysmic flood. Finally, the nation scale complements the body scale but in a more contemporary and scientific way.

Whiteness reflects a body politic fighting the disease of cancer/immigration in two ways: with an imagined militaristic, immune system and with hi-tech, aggressive operations. This "diseased body politic" communicates whiteness and nativism about the border through discursive border symptoms and border operations that represent the intersection of immunology discourse, the racial construction of the body politic, and anxiety about postmodern economic transformation and its impact on national borders.

social death lisa marie cacho: Viral World Long T. Bui, 2024-06-07 This book argues that the catastrophe of COVID-19 provided a momentous time for groups, institutions, and states to reassess their worldviews and relationship to the entire world. Following multiple case studies across dozens of countries throughout the course of the pandemic, this book is a timely contribution to cultural knowledge about the pandemic and the viral politics at the heart of it. Mapping the various forms of global consciousness and connectivity engendered by the crisis, the book offers the framework of viral worlding, defined as viral forms of relationality, becoming, and communication. It demonstrates how worlding or world-making processes accelerated with the novel coronavirus. New emergent forms of being global went viral to address conditions of inequality as well as forge possibilities for societal transformation. Considering the tumult wrought by the pandemic, Bui analyzes progressive movements for democracy, abolition, feminism, environmentalism, and socialism against the world-shattering forces of capitalism, authoritarianism, racism, and militarism. Focusing on ways the pandemic disproportionately impacted marginalized communities, particularly in the Global South, this book juxtaposes the closing of their lifeworlds and social worlds by hegemonic global actors with increased collective demands for freedom, mobility, and justice by vulnerable people. The breadth and depth of the book thus provides students, scholars, and general readers with critical insights to understanding the world(s) of COVID-19 and collective efforts to build better new ones.

social death lisa marie cacho: Black Hospitality Mukasa Mubirumusoke, 2022-03-21 This book addresses the paucity of robust reflections on ethics as a distinct field of experience in recent Black Studies scholarship. Following the intervention of the Afro-Pessimist school of thought—spearheaded by the likes of Frank Wilderson III and Jared Sexton—there has been much needed attention brought to the totalizing nature of Black political degradation and vulnerability in America. However, an in depth reflection on the ethical implications of this political positionality is lacking and in places even implied to not be possible. Black Hospitality conceptualizes what the author argues is the aporetic experience of Black ethical life as both excessively vulnerable within and yet also ultimately hostile to an anti-black political ontology. Engaging the work of scholars such as Fred Moten, Saidiya Hartman, Nahum Chandler, Jacques Derrida, Theodor Adorno, and Toni Morrison, along with the concepts of fugitivity, Black sociality, im-possibility, and paraontology, Black Hospitality insists that Black ethical life provides a necessary broadening of the contours of Black experience.

social death lisa marie cacho: Civility, Legality, and Justice in America Austin Sarat, 2014-08-11 This book brings together the work of several distinguished scholars to chart the uses of civility in American legal and political discourse.

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one of the Best Books of the 21st Century for the New York Times* An irresistibly readable and
humane exploration of the barbarities of class...readers are gifted that most precious of things in
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bestselling author of This Changes Everything and The Shock Doctrine From preeminent LGBTQ
scholar, social critic, and journalist Steven W. Thrasher comes a powerful and crucial exploration of
one of the most pressing issues of our times: how viruses expose the fault lines of society. Having
spent a ground-breaking career studying the racialization, policing, and criminalization of HIV, Dr.
Thrasher has come to understand a deeper truth at the heart of our society: that there are vast

inequalities in who is able to survive viruses and that the ways in which viruses spread, kill, and take their toll are much more dependent on social structures than they are on biology alone. Told through the heart-rending stories of friends, activists, and teachers navigating the novel coronavirus, HIV, and other viruses, Dr. Thrasher brings the reader with him as he delves into the viral underclass and lays bare its inner workings. In the tradition of Isabel Wilkerson's Caste and Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow, The Viral Underclass helps us understand the world more deeply by showing the fraught relationship between privilege and survival.

social death lisa marie cacho: Against Citizenship Amy L Brandzel, 2016-04-15 Numerous activists and scholars have appealed for rights, inclusion, and justice in the name of citizenship. Against Citizenship provocatively shows that there is nothing redeemable about citizenship, nothing worth salvaging or sustaining in the name of community, practice, or belonging. According to Brandzel, citizenship is a violent dehumanizing mechanism that makes the comparative devaluing of human lives seem commonsensical, logical, and even necessary. Against Citizenship argues that whenever we work on behalf of citizenship, whenever we work toward including more types of peoples under its reign, we inevitably reify the violence of citizenship against nonnormative others. Brandzel's focus on three legal case studies--same-sex marriage law, hate crime legislation, and Native Hawaiian sovereignty and racialization-exposes how citizenship confounds and obscures the mutual processes of settler colonialism, racism, sexism, and heterosexism. In this way, Brandzel argues that citizenship requires anti-intersectionality, that is, strategies that deny the mutuality and contingency of race, class, gender, sexuality, and nation--and how, oftentimes, progressive left activists and scholars follow suit. Against Citizenship is an impassioned plea for a queer, decolonial, anti-racist coalitional stance against the systemized human de/valuing and anti-intersectionalities of citizenship.

social death lisa marie cacho: Against Abandonment Ju Hui Judy Chun, Jennifer Jihye Chun, 2025-06-24 Across the world, protest has become a much-debated tactic in struggles against inequality, political corruption, and ecological disaster. In South Korea, protest is a ubiquitous and essential form of political expression. In 1987, mass protests forced reforms that led to democratizing government. In 2017, the Candlelight movement removed the sitting president. Beyond these spectacular national protests, Korean workers and minority groups regularly turn to protest to express their grievances and assert their rights. Based on long-term ethnographic research with labor and social movement activists, Against Abandonment is at once a chronicle of the life-and-death character of protesting precarity in South Korea and a searing examination of repertoires of solidarity for upending injustice. Protest forms such as long-term encampments, life-threatening hunger strikes, and perilous high-altitude occupations are agonizing to perform and to witness but often powerful as catalysts for change. Chun and Han situate South Korean protest in transnational context to demonstrate how the struggles of South Korean workers are inextricably tied to the globalized conditions of neoliberal capitalism. Building on the work of abolitionist feminist thinkers, the book theorizes protest as a political form with far-reaching resonance across history and geography, and underscores the significance of collective survival, self-determination, and emancipatory transformation.

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"Born in the U.S.A.," they remade their racial identities for an age of color blindness and multiculturalism in the image of the Vietnam vet. No one wins in a culture war—except, Joseph Darda argues, white men dressed in army green.

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