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*Explore Texas: A Nature Travel Guide* by Mary O. Parker  
(review)

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historicizing and examining power structures of learning; scaffolding learning that builds upon mentoring and community leadership, and collective assessment and reflexivity practices. Most important, an integration of historical trauma-informed learning and teaching, individually and collectively, will further enhance reading this text and, one hopes, promote emotionally just communities of helping professions. In general, Indigenous educators and allies will find this text inspirational, hopeful, and useful.

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***On Gender, Labor, and Inequality.*** By Ruth Milkman. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2016. vii + 301 pp. Tables, figures, index. \$28.00 paper.

Milkman's collection will well serve scholars of the Great Plains with its comprehensive coverage, from a 1976 study of Great Depression female workers to an essay written for this volume that reprises the same questions for the 2008 Great Recession. The 11 essays constitute a history of women's relationships to both the workforce and unions across the twentieth century. Marxist, feminist, and modernization theories influenced Milkman's original analysis and how she framed the essays for reading now. The essays, deepened by sociological method, foreground statistical analyses of census records, rather than women's thoughts about their own experiences.

Sex-typing and gender segregation in the labor force emerge as the most persistent factors affecting women workers. Milkman's classic Great Depression essay shows women suffered lower rates of unemployment because their jobs experienced less contraction. Even women who filled so-called men's jobs in the World War II automobile-turned-defense industry found them reclassified as women's work. Later articles explain how management had as much to do with the "purge" (119) of women from defense industries as the resistance of the United Auto Workers. Applying sociological theory on the "formative stages" (171) of union organization in terms of structure and historic gender norms, Milkman offers explanations for the exclusion or inclusion of women in four major surges of activity: late nineteenth-

century craft unions, the "new unionism" of the 1910s needle and garment trades, the industrial unions of the 1930s, and finally, the public and service unions that grew out of economic structural shifts in the 1960s and 1970s. Recent work explores the deep influence of income inequality, particularly *among* women, which has risen steadily from the 1970s at the advent of decreasing gender inequality for women in professional jobs.

The most direct connection to Great Plains research emerges from Milkman's study of paid domestic labor, work-family policies, and class. An essay on the prevalence of domestic labor in the 100 largest metropolitan areas of the United States included Plains anchor cities such as Houston and Tulsa, and the author argues explicitly for continued regional research (243). Milkman's general insights across the collection may have application to agricultural regions in which manufacturing has been historically low but is growing along with industrial agriculture. How does the service economy of tourism—a stronghold in Great Plains economies—fare in analysis of 1960s and 1970s union organization and gendered work spaces? Milkman's decades of study provide a solid foundation for new work in Great Plains labor history.

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***Explore Texas: A Nature Travel Guide.*** By Mary O. Parker. Photographs by Jeff Parker. Foreword by Carter P. Smith. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2016. xi + 302 pp. Illustrations, maps, index. \$28.00 paper.

*Explore Texas: A Nature Travel Guide* is a wonderful companion for the naturalist and nature enthusiast taking a trip across Texas. Author Mary O. Parker focuses on nearly 100 nature-related venues and events statewide organized by the seven official regions of Texas: Big Bend Country, Gulf Coast, Hill Country, Panhandle Plains, Piney Woods, Prairies and Lakes, and South Texas Plains.

This guide serves as a sort of life list for what to see, when to see it, and why we should take the time to explore the natural landscapes, destinations, and events of each Texas region. Beautiful photographs by Jeff Parker

enhance each section. Each entry contains a map, travel directions, and tips for how to make the most of your adventure. Helpful activity icons like “wildlife watching,” “geology gems,” and more accompany each venue to help you see which nature activity is available.

But what sets this book apart from other nature travel guides is the excellent education sections for each venue. It offers fascinating facts and intriguing details about specific aspects of each particular location. For example, the entry for the Brazos Bend State Park and George Observatory details the site’s American alligators, Anhinga birds, and northern raccoons. This serves to enhance the explorer’s experience and, one hopes, spark in that person an appreciation of the need for continued conservation and protection for these areas.

*Explore Texas: A Nature Travel Guide* is essential for both native and non-native Texans wishing to explore the Lone Star State and see what intriguing adventures await.

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***The Material Culture of German Texans.*** By Kenneth Hafertepe. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2016. vii + 494 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$50.00 cloth.

Lavishly illustrated, meticulously researched, and passionately written, *The Material Culture of German Texans* will become the definitive study of 19th-century German-Texan vernacular architecture and material life. Conceived as a blended cultural history looking for continuities and differences in building and living styles, this study is an ambitious recovery project intent on documenting the German contribution to a historical landscape that emerged in small towns and rural communities in the southernmost region of the Great Plains, a contact zone famous for English, Spanish, and Native traditions rather than German architectural customs. Tapping an array of archival evidence gleaned from sources as diverse as floor plans and photographs, tax records and probate inventories, not to mention personal letters and travel accounts, the book’s 10 chapters reconstruct a “cradle-to-grave” narrative of the building habits and design preferences of a German immigrant community that adapted a hodgepodge of building

styles, interior designs, and furnishing preferences in order to survive the harsh living conditions along the Texas frontier.

The first five chapters recount the birth of a German-Texan vernacular architecture as it emerged from design plans and rare surviving housing stock. Between the 1840s and 1890s, four building types stood out: the German-Texan log house, the German Tudor-style *fachwerk* house, the rock house, and the Sunday house. Each of these building styles reflect informed cultural decisions and values. They reflected the need for shelter (log houses tended to be simple and small, and frequently were the first and only structure owned by newly arrived German families); economic progress (families tended to build a separate *fachwerk* house next to the original log house after establishing a farm or shop); social ambitions (rock houses at times competed with Victorian style mansions); or the desire for maintaining a social life (German-Texan farmers built small cottage-style Sunday houses inside market towns as overnight accommodations when attending church or social clubs). While by the end of the century the buildings’ exteriors gradually gave way to Anglo-American architectural designs, chapters 6 and 7 illustrate the vibrancy of German interiors and a material life marked by simple comforts and decorative efficiency. The final three chapters document the lasting influence of German building styles in the public sphere, addressing the design of county courthouses and jails, churches and social clubs, and, last but not least, cemeteries and funerary monuments.

The strength of this book is its thorough documentation of the rise of a German-Texan vernacular material culture that is on the verge of being forgotten in both its large and small things. The array of sources consulted as well as presented is impressive, leaving the reader convinced that this book is bringing to light German-Texan architecture in all its varied forms and functions. At times, navigating the wealth of sources is made difficult by the book’s narrative habit of compiling lengthy, detailed descriptions. At other times, in its effort to be as comprehensive as possible—and this is commensurate with the book’s stated goal of providing a “blended cultural history”—the book foregoes synthesizing some of its findings or situating them inside the larger context of either Texan or Great Plains material life. But this does not diminish the book’s important and poignant message. As an accomplished field study, *The Material Culture of German Texans* does more than recover a formative part of the Great Plains’ cultural heritage. By