

fishing communities. These larger issues are not discussed in much depth in *Set Adrift* but it has given us a strong empirical basis from which to do this work.

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***Wired to the World, Chained to the Home: Telework in Daily Life.*** Penny Gurstein. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 2001; viii+246 pages; ISBN 0-7748-0846-2; \$75.00 (cloth).

Scholars predicted that technological advances in computerization would create a better world for all, but as Penny Gurstein shows us, being "wired to the world" has many drawbacks.

This new technology has facilitated a new form of home work - telework. In 1992 a national survey estimated that up to 23% of working Canadians spent at least some of their working time at home. Canada is a world leader in home computer use and Internet use. North Americans are "wired to the world," yet only a fraction of the world's population has access to computers and related technology.

This book investigates the growth of telework in Canada and the USA. Telework is a term applied to work done away from the office, work performed with the help of computers and the Internet. Gurstein's study examines the many forms of telework: employees connected to corporate networks while working in their homes; self employed consultants; independent contractors or self employed subcontractors who rely on ICTs (information and communications technologies) in order to carry out their work; and workers, whether directly employed or outsourced, located in back offices or call centres, linked telematically to employer's central offices (4).

The research evidence for this book was gathered over ten years and it draws from three studies of teleworkers and home based entrepreneurs in California in 1990, in Canada in 1995, and in Vancouver in 2000. It satisfactorily blends qualitative policy research and quantitative data to uncover the complex reality of telework. The evidence is used to develop profiles of teleworkers that will reflect "the distinct social, spatial, and temporal patterns in the home environment" (44).

Over the years this research was conducted, there have been significant changes both in technology and in family life. Gurstein is able to track these changes and look at the impact they have on both the incidence and character of telework. The book begins with a typology of flexible workers and situates this internationally. It then turns to a description of the results of each study, and finally it explores teleworkers' relationship to their communities, raising questions for future community planning.

The work examines several distinctive groups of teleworkers: employed teleworkers, self-employed entrepreneurs and independent contractors. It looks at the differences and similarities in their experiences, and the social, spatial and community settings of their home/work environments.

The book makes several key observations. Teleworkers face a situation where work invades every aspect of their life and Gurstein warns "homework is not a seamless utopian intermingling of work and domestic responsibilities"(194). Working at home does not change gender roles. Women continue to assume the largest share of family responsibilities.

With the advent of telework, the home is no longer a buffer against the imperatives of capitalism. Gurstein states: "the post industrial society is 'coming home'" (195). The use of the home as a workplace transforms the space of daily life. Work is spread over most of the day and the lines between work and leisure become blurred. Homeworkers frequently overwork and feelings of isolation from other workers dissociate many teleworkers from the larger community. As an urban planner, Gurstein is interested in exploring the way telework alters the way people work, play and live in their community. The social and spatial impact of technological change may be freeing us up to move away from the office, but the jury is still out on whether or not this freedom is real.

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***Tangled Routes: Women, Work, and Globalization on the Tomato Trail.*** Deborah Barndt. Aurora, Ontario: Garamond Press, 2002; illustrations and photographs; xiii +

267 pages; ISBN 1-55193-042-0; \$34.95 (paper).

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Where does our food come from? And what is involved in its production, marketing, and ultimate consumption? In this finely crafted, disturbing and ultimately empowering study, Deborah Brandt exposes the processes by which food comes to the North American table. Her marker is the "corporate tomato" - the genetically modified, commodified, and chemically treated product that is consumed daily in myriad forms. Tracing its journey from the fields of Mexico northward to Canada, Brandt addresses three key stages in the process - production in Mexico, transportation and trade in the United States, and commercialization and consumption in Canada - to open out her study into analyses of globalization, ecology, fast food, labour practices, NAFTA, and colonialism. She employs a number of techniques to tell her tale. Early in the text she gives the reader a careful outline of her "frames and filters," the methodological and theoretical approaches by which the corporate tomato's "tangled routes" will be analyzed. "Production / consumption" and "biodiversity/cultural diversity" form the two primary axes, supported by secondary analytical axes of health / environment and work / technology. These are explored through the experiences of women who work at the various stages of the tomato's progress northward, but Brandt does not limit her focus to gender. Or put differently, case studies of these women reveal a considerable diversity, as gendered experience is inflected with other dynamics of power like class, race/ethnicity, age/family, and the rural/urban divide. Photographs provide a powerful support for the stories thus told, bringing home the realities of exploitation, solidarity, and resistance.

Thoroughly accessible and impressive in its scope, *Tangled Routes* is essential reading for anyone concerned about social justice, the environment, and the health of human selves and community. Brandt's concluding chapter indeed provides "signs of hope," in the conviction that critical analyses can and must be transformed into action, and that those acts, however small, are available to us all.

Randi Warne