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Social Sciences : Urban Studies/Sociology

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Shrinking Cities and First Suburbs

The Case of Detroit and Warren, Michigan

- Addresses strong global interest in urban areas like Detroit, Michigan, which are facing critical issues of urban decay
- Represents a useful contribution to the growing literature on 'first suburbs'
- Illustrates an alternate model to address shrinkage through on-the-ground project-based efforts in fringe communities

This book examines Warren, a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, as a shrinking city facing a crisis of economic downturn, automotive restructuring, high unemployment, and real estate foreclosures. The author explores Warren's attempt to develop planning strategies, culturally-based initiatives, community design projects, and creative partnerships in the region in order to address the challenges of shrinkage and foreclosures at multiple scales. Global urban development is currently characterized by varied combination of metropolitan growth and urban core shrinkage. While much of the shrinkage is concentrated in central cities, first suburbs are now facing the same problem. The Warren case illustrates opportunities for flexible policies combining rightsizing, shared maintenance, and incremental development in struggling first suburban communities, which are less studied and often ignored.

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