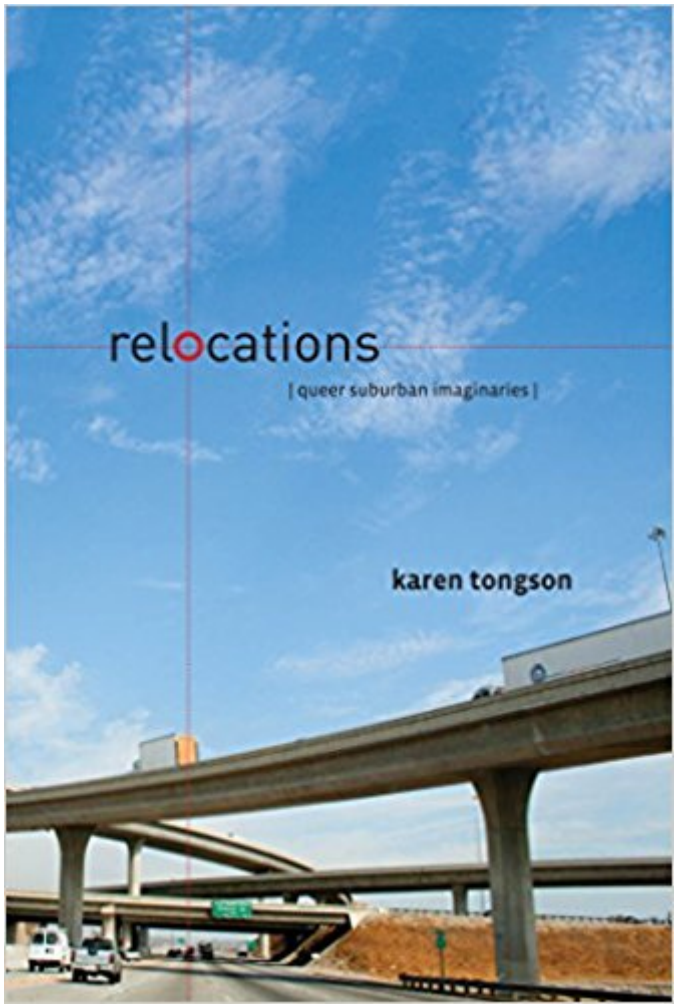
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Relocations: Queer Suburban Imaginaries (Sexual Cultures)



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Synopsis

What queer lives, loves and possibilities teem within suburbiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s little boxes? Moving beyond the imbedded urban/rural binary, Relocations offers the first major queer cultural study of sexuality, race and representation in the suburbs. Focusing on the region humorists have referred to as Ã¢â ¬Å“Lesser Los AngelesÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •a global prototype for sprawlÃ¢â ¬â •Karen Tongson weaves through suburbiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Ã¢â ¬Å“nowhereÃ¢â ¬Â•spaces to survey our spatial imaginaries: the aesthetic, creative and popular materials of the new suburbia.Across southern CaliforniaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s freeways, beneath its overpasses and just beyond its winding cloverleaf interchanges, Tongson explores the improvisational archives of queer suburban sociability, from multimedia artist Lynne ChanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s JJ Chinois projects and the amusement park night-clubs of 1980s Orange County to the imperial legacies of the region known as the Inland Empire. By taking a hard look at the cosmopolitanism historically considered de rigeur for queer subjects, while engaging with the so-called Ã¢â ¬Å“New SuburbanismÃ¢â ¬Â• that has captivated the national imaginary in everything from lifestyle trends to electoral politics, Relocations radically revises our sense of where to see and feel queer of color sociability, politics and desire.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Relocations is luminous, hilarious, rigorous, and profoundly moving. Tongson turns the tables on the critical commonplace that the U.S. suburbs have been and will always be spaces of stultifying sameness."-Scott Herring,International Journal of Communication"Relocations makes powerful

contributions across queer, Asian American, Latin, American, and suburban studies, cultural geography, and scholarship on affect and sound, and should be a must-read for scholars interested in Los Angeles, empire, suburbia, gentri?cation, music, sexuality and space, or queer of color critique. It is also a simply exhilarating read, at once rich in its theoretical considerations and refreshingly lucid."- David Seitz,The Journal of Emotion, Space and Society"RelocationsÃ Â offers many elegant and playful challenges to [the] logic [of] queer spatial imaginaries [which are] thought through an urban/rural binary."-Society and SpaceÃ¢â ¬Å“Reading Relocations is akin to listening to a soundtrack of a favored movie from your teenage years, one whose details are perhaps forgotten, but the sound memory of which can take you, affectively, to another time, another worldÃ¢â ¬â •to a different mode of being. With considerable style and expansive insight, Karen Tongson makes palpable the proliferation of queerness in such putatively normative sites as suburban Los Angeles. Thoroughly multi-disciplinary, theoretically savvy, archivally and methodologically innovative, this book is a lesson in how to cruise critically through the aesthetic, historic, personal, and political routes that connect places to persons and performances to identities, and present times to as yet unrealized elsewheres.Ã¢â ¬Â•-Kandice Chuh,author of Imagine Otherwise: on Asian Americanist Critique"This is provocative and works well, in particular TongsonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s risk-taking with regard to formal structure and narrative voice [...] TongsonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s style is adamantly interrogative and personal."-Oxford Journal"Tongson forwards novel and powerfully interwoven interventions into queer studiesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ metronormativity, the suburbsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ white heteronormative ethos, and the neoliberal and imperialist complicities that undergird not only suburban queersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ subordination but also their agency."Ã Â -GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay StudiesÃ¢â ¬Å“Karen Tongson takes us on a wild ride to the hinterlands, the inner empires and the disturbing yet vital Ã¢â ¬Ëœburbs.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ She skillfully re-routes well-trodden tales of white flight and gay migration and deftly navigates the theoretical freeways to trace the emergence, lives and furtive affective and creative aspirations of queer of color cultures and communities in what have been long been considered the spatial edge of American social life. Relocations is fierce, eloquent and compelling.Ã¢â ¬Â•-Martin F. Manalansan IV,author of Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora

Karen Tongson is Associate Professor of English and Gender Studies at University of Southern California. She is co-editor for NYU PressÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Postmillennial Pop series and is also co-editor-in-chief of The Journal of Popular Music Studies.

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