

CHOICE

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SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Sociology

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The following review appeared in the September 2013 issue of CHOICE:

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Diversity in diaspora: Hmong Americans in the twenty-first century, ed. by Mark Edward Pfeifer, Monica Chiu, and Kou Yang. Hawai'i, 2013. 296p bibl index afp ISBN 9780824835972, \$60.00

The editors and contributors have crafted a strong interdisciplinary collection with wide-ranging research, background materials, and proposals for future study in this exploration of the lives of the growing Hmong American community. Of particular note are the four essays that carefully examine the cultural production of Hmong Americans since their arrival in the US. A recurring theme is the unique appropriations by Hmong American cultural producers to explain, describe, and articulate their experiences and identities. Discussions of Hmong American political activism and civic engagement provide important insights into the impact Hmong Americans have had on their local political situations. Yang Sao Xiong's powerful research-based essay deliberating on Hmong Americans' collective efforts to deal with structural barriers to social mobility is an important contribution not only to Hmong American studies specifically, but to immigration and working-class studies generally. While somewhat mechanical in its organization and its elaboration of the trajectory of Hmong inclusion in the US, Kou Yang's essay details important historical events and contemporary experiences of US Hmong since their first arrival in large numbers in 1975, after the war with Vietnam came to a close. Overall, this collection delivers dynamic imagery of the Hmong in a sensitive, meticulously researched manner. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries. -- J. R. Wendland, *Grand Valley State University*