

The Politics of Home:

The Struggle to Belong at Home and at Work, in the Neighborhood
and in the Nation

Jan Willem Duyvendak

Professor of Sociology
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Discussant: Arlie Hochschild, Emiritus Professor of Sociology, UC
Berkeley

Monday, December 5
1-3pm

221 Kroeber Hall (Gifford Room, Department of Anthropology)

Jan Willem Duyvendak will present his new book *The Politics of Home. Belonging and Nostalgia in Western Europe and the United States*. His book addresses prominent debates in Western Europe and the United States on themes as seemingly diverse as national identity and nostalgia, migration and integration, gender relations and 'caring communities'. At the most fundamental level, all of these debates deal with the right to belong and the ability to 'feel at home'. The book examines what has happened to the 'home feelings' of the majority under the influence of the two major revolutions of our times: the gender revolution and increased mobility due to globalization. It analyzes how 'home' has been politicized, examines the risks of this politicization, as well as exploring alternative home-making strategies that aim to transcend the 'logic of identities' where one group's ability to feel at home comes at the expense of other groups.

Arlie Hochschild will discuss the books main findings, focusing on the gendered dimension of many 'home' ideals. Based on her recent research on tea partiers, she distinguishes between the wish to belong to the nation as a symbolic daddy-military and to belong to the church, the family and the local community, identified as female.

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"Duyvendak cleverly dissects the idea of home at very different levels, and different continents, weaving together strands of sociology that are usually kept far apart."
- Professor Jasper, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, USA

"In this important work of comparative historical sociology, community studies and social theory, Jan Willem Duyvendak explores the changing meanings associated with 'feeling at home' in contemporary Western Europe and North America. Exhaustively researched, methodologically rigorous and accessibly presented, this book will be of great interest to all social scientists concerned to understand the remaking of social attachment and cultural belonging under early 21st century conditions."
- Professor Neil Brenner, New York University, USA

"Through contrasting ideologies of 'home as nation' in Europe, and 'home as safe haven' in the United States, Duyvendak traces the growing obsession with place and rootedness, home and homeland, as a reaction to globalization and the gender revolution. His analysis reveals the underlying tensions between liberal definitions of citizenship and a more conservative discourse of the right to belong with surprising results. His insightful comparison sheds light on the emerging contradictions inherent in the notion of home and its contemporary political reality and deployment."
- Professor Setha Low, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, USA

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Jan Willem Duyvendak Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam, studied sociology and philosophy in Groningen and Paris. His previous work has addressed the history of political concepts, social movements, multiculturalism, social policy, and sexuality.



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THE POLITICS OF HOME

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Belonging and Nostalgia in Western Europe and the United States



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