

Book Review: Miriam Boeri, *Women on Ice: Methamphetamine Use among Suburban Women*. Rutgers University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0813554594 (Paperback). 231 Pages. \$27.95

Reviewed by Melissa Fry¹

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To those who see drug addiction only from a distance, the decisions and behaviors of addicts appear irrational and reckless. But others who work in social services or who have family or close friends that provide a closer look at the paths that lead to drug use and the barriers to emerging from it may not agree. For them, the gray realities of choice are more apparent. In *Women on Ice: Methamphetamine Use among Suburban Women*, Miriam Boeri takes the reader into the complicated lives of women meth users.

Boeri exposes the reality of poor choices, but places choice in the context of structured constraint. In the end, she provides a telling portrait of social service systems that leave suburbanites out, criminal justice and hiring systems that make fresh starts a rare exception, and structural dynamics that favor those fortunate enough to have the social capital necessary to navigate the traps and pitfalls of financial misfortune, incarceration and reentry, and addiction recovery. *Women on Ice* is a compelling call to shift from a punitive criminal approach to addiction to a social recovery model.

Women on Ice uses in-depth interviews and ethnographic field observations to provide rich context and detail for understanding the structural and social psychological bases of drug use and abuse in suburban America. The text meets the standard of ethnographic texture set by Whyte's *Street Corner Society*, as Boeri allows the story to be told through the voices of those whose lives she seeks to understand; and

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