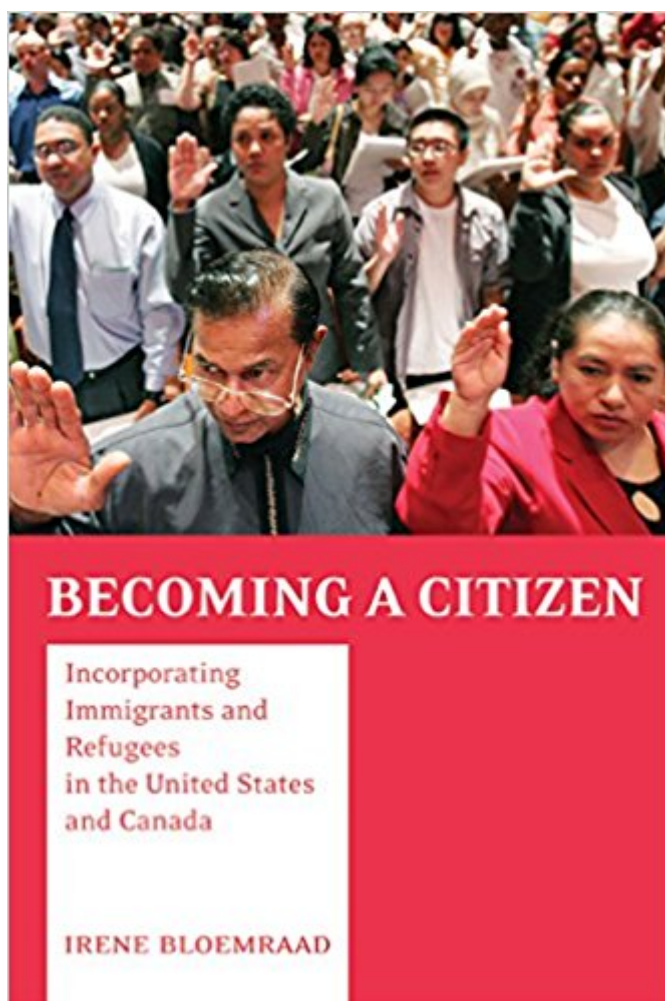The book was found

Becoming A Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants And Refugees In The United States And Canada

BECOMING A CITIZEN

Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada

IRENE BLOEMRAAD

Synopsis

How can societies that welcome immigrants from around the world create civic cohesion and political community out of ethnic and racial diversity? This thought-provoking book is the first to provide a comparative perspective on how the United States and Canada encourage foreigners to become citizens. Based on vivid in-depth interviews with Portuguese immigrants and Vietnamese refugees in Boston and Toronto and on statistical analysis and documentary data, Becoming a Citizen shows that greater state support for settlement and an official government policy of multiculturalism in Canada increase citizenship acquisition and political participation among the foreign born. The United States, long a successful example of immigrant integration, today has greater problems incorporating newcomers into the polity. While many previous accounts suggest that differences in naturalization and political involvement stem from differences in immigrantsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ political skills and interests, Irene Bloemraad argues that foreigners' political incorporation is not just a question of the type of people countries receive, but also fundamentally of the reception given to them. She discusses the implications of her findings for other countries, including Australia and immigrant nations in Europe.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å"Deftly executed work of sociological detection on an important and timely subject.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Sociological Forum 2008-05-01)Ã¢â ¬Å"This excellent book should become an important reference for debates on immigration and multiculturalism. Its claims are subtle and well argued, its

empirical evidence is carefully evaluated, and its multiple comparisons are well deployed in a multilayered way.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Gianpaolo Baiocchi American Journal Of Sociology / AJS 2009-01-01)

"Becoming a Citizen is a terrific book. Important, innovative, well argued, theoretically significant, and empirically grounded. It will be the definitive work in the field for years to come."—Frank D. Bean, Co-Director, Center for Research on Immigration, Population and Public Policy"This book is in three ways innovative. First, it avoids the domestic navel-gazing of U.S .immigration studies, through an obvious yet ingenious comparison with Canada. Second, it shows that official multiculturalism and common citizenship may very well go together, revealing Canada, and not the United States, as leader in successful immigrant integration. Thirdly, the book provides a compelling picture of how the state matters in making immigrants citizens. An outstanding contribution to the migration and citizenship literature!"—Christian Joppke, American University of Paris

Excellent comparison of immigration policy in Canada and the US. A lot to be learned from Canada, especially in how it incorporates immigrants into national life, which is a major part of the governments approach to immigration.

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