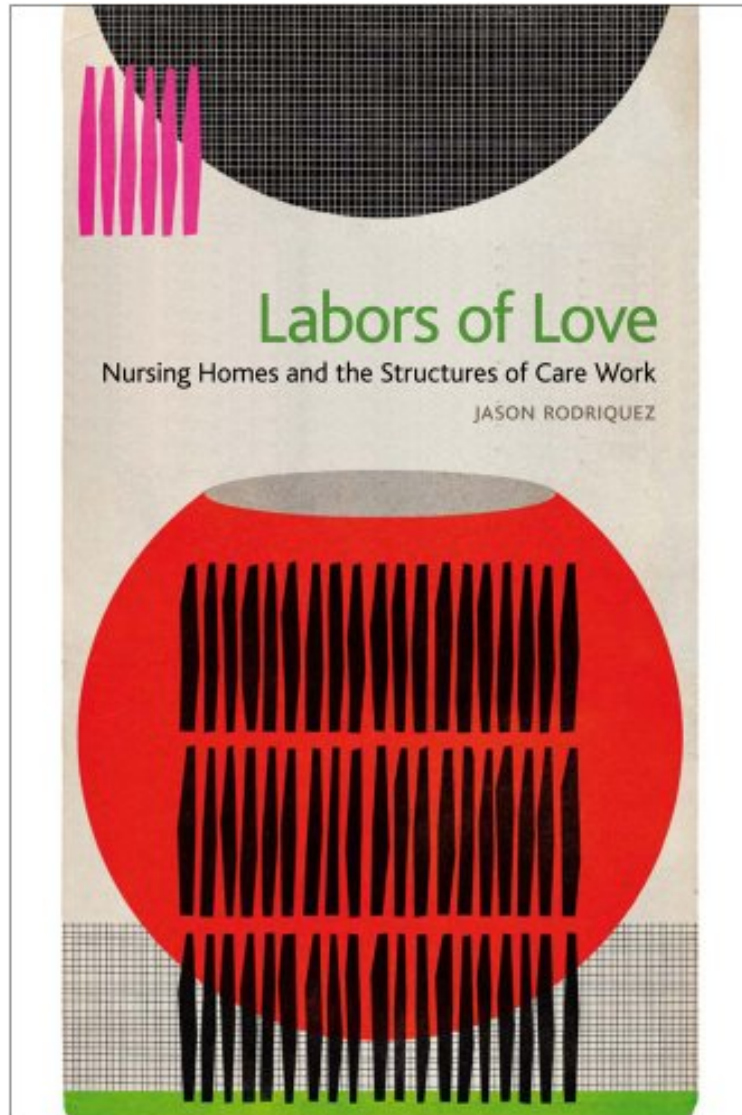


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Labors of Love: Nursing Homes and the Structures of Care Work

Jason Rodriguez

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Jason Rodriguez : Labors of Love: Nursing Homes and the Structures of Care Work before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Labors of Love: Nursing Homes and the Structures of Care Work:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommendedBy IntoTheMaelstromGreat book--strongly recommended for sociologists studying work or medicine. I was impressed not just by the empirical analysis, but by

the author's ability to dig a little deeper into debates around, say, emotional labor. The main question in the book is how different for-profit and non-profit nursing homes are (spoiler: not so different). But Rodriquez also shows that the efforts of the for-profit home to take in higher-paying medicare patients does lead the two homes on different trajectories. Also recommended for medical professionals or even those curious about the industry. But beware that it is a book written for sociologists, so there will be some discussions that may be boring if you're not in the field. However, aside from those moments it is a very interesting read.

Every day for the next twenty years, more than 10,000 people in the United States will turn 65. With life expectancies increasing as well, many of these Americans will eventually require round-the-clock attention and we have only begun to prepare for the challenge of caring for them. In *Labors of Love*, Jason Rodriquez examines the world of the fast-growing elder care industry, providing a nuanced and balanced portrait of the day-to-day lives of the people and organizations that devote their time to supporting America's aging population.

"Full of rich and absorbing material, this well-written and sensitively drawn ethnographic study provides important insights into the conflicts, contradictions, and constraints involved in the operation of nursing homes and the care work that takes place in them. A valuable and welcome addition to the literature on emotional labor, workplace organization, and long-term care." -Nancy Foner, author of *The Caregiving Dilemma: Work in an American Nursing Home*

"*Labors of Love* is without parallel in the nursing home literature. No other ethnographer has written in such a finely detailed way about the worlds of nursing home managers. In this book, Jason Rodriquez spells out in riveting detail how nursing home managers respond to a system that incentivizes dependence and incapacity rather than independence and restorative care, how they must "put on a show" for state inspectors that does not and cannot reflect the reality of normal day-to-day operations, and how the current regulatory framework actively discourages authentic emotional relationships between caregivers and recipients. *Labors of Love* will change the terms of the national debate about nursing homes." -Steven Lopez, author of *Reorganizing the Rust Belt: An Inside Study of the American Labor Movement*

"*Labors of Love* is accessible and appropriate for a range of student and scholarly audiences. Rodriquez is a reflexive ethnographer who is relatable and human in his narrative." -Contemporary Sociology

"*Labors of Love* is a compelling indictment of the contemporary nursing home industry. Might morals and markets ever be aligned more humanely in the nursing home industry? Perhaps it would be easier to search for a fountain of youth." -American Journal of Sociology

"[Rodriquez] describes the conflicts, constraints, and competition between nursing home caregivers and administration, as well as the reality of a government bureaucracy (Medicare/Medicaid) that defines client care, encourages fraud, and creates a scenario in which cost outweighs client care...[A] well-written, interesting book." -Choice

About the Author Jason Rodriquez is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and was an NIMH Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Rutgers University Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research. He is originally from Staten Island, NY.