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Diversity and multiculturalism are the goals of many cities and neighborhoods in both North Carolina and the United States. However, even when a neighborhood is statistically integrated, it maybe still segregated in terms of social and political power. Sarah Mayorga-Gallo’s first book examines the social and political relationships of multiethnic neighborhood Creekridge Park in Durham. Mayorga-Gallo conducted the research as part of her dissertation from Duke University. This book is a revision of Mayorga-Gallo’s dissertation.

Mayorga-Gallo interviewed over 60 residents of the Creekridge Park community in Durham to discover their views on their neighborhood and the social relationships within the neighborhood. The interviews serve to illustrate various sociological theories Mayorga-Gallo incorporates. The interviews illustrate that though a neighborhood is statistically integrated, segregation due to language and cultural differences may still exist in social relationships. Mayorga-Gallo found few social relationships that existed across ethnic lines even though residents praised the diversity of the Creekridge Park area. White residents of Creekridge community claimed the cultural diversity was one of the reasons they were attracted to the neighborhood, but they had few friends in the neighborhood who were members of a different race.

Mayorga-Gallo found the white residents worked to maintain the white middle class values (no loud music, clean yards with no trash or junk in them) through the neighborhood association. The Creekridge neighborhood association was almost 100 percent white homeowners with little participation from the apartment complexes whose renters were mostly minorities or ethnic homeowners in the area. Members of the neighborhood association reported they had tried to recruit members from the apartment complexes and other homeowners but no one participated. Mayorga-Gallo reported that some Latino/as did not participate because they did/could not read the flyers put up around the neighborhood.
announcing the meetings or did not participate in the neighborhood association listserv.

Mayorga-Gallo is currently an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Cincinnati.

This book is recommended to all academic libraries that support sociology, ethnic studies, public administration, and political science departments. Anyone who is interested in multicultural community development is also encouraged to read this book.

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