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# Recovering Resources— Recycling Citizenship

## Urban Poverty Reduction in Latin America

Jutta Gutberlet, University of Victoria

*"This engaging text adds to the growing body of critical work on waste in developing world cities. Gutberlet demonstrates a substantive commitment to both policy analysis centered on participatory community development and recycling in Brazil and more theoretical scholarly discussions about consumption, poverty reduction strategies and urban political ecology."*

—Garth Myers, University of Kansas

Environmental awareness and social mobilization is a growing issue in Latin America. This book discusses how cooperative recycling practices have been increasingly used as a strategy to battle both the waste problem and urban poverty. Selective waste collection and sorting materials out of the garbage stream has become a widespread survival strategy for the economically excluded population. While severe and chronic occupational health problems and risks are very common among the recycling workers, thousands of people exclusively depend on accessing these resources. By examining experiences from Brazil and other Latin American countries, this book questions what can be done to improve the environment and livelihoods for these excluded citizens, examines the specific health and risk implications and looks at the many innovative recycling co-ops and associations which have recently emerged, creating an exciting new form of solidarity economy.

In doing so, it uncovers the landscapes of despair populated by the urban marginalized, but also the landscapes of hope, where solidarity and collaboration make a pathway to a better way of life.

### Key Points:

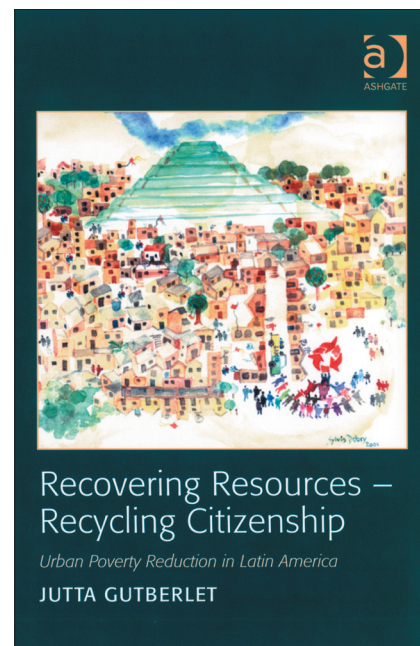
- Examines the innovative approach Latin America is using to turn the major environmental problem of waste into a resource.
- Addresses the creation of collectives and the pressures on the government for policy improvements and safeguards.

**Contents:** Waste No Waste; Cities, Consumption and Disposable Society; Surviving at the Urban Frontier; Grassroots Resource Recovery for Human Security; Wasting Health; Co-management in Resource Recovery; Conclusion; Index.

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