within the broader context of economic, social, and political change within particular countries. Child labor is about much more than child labor. Studies that focus narrowly on child labor fail to show how understanding child labor can shed light on broader issues such as changing modes of production, patriarchal relations, urbanization, civil unrest and political instability, structural adjustment policies, and globalization. Moreover, it is only by placing child labor within these broader contexts that we can see that "solutions" do not lie in targeting children in the workforce (doing work that is or is not harmful) but in changes in the broader society, economy, and political system of which children and childhood are integral parts.

Beverly Grier
Clark University
Worcester, Massachusetts

Kjell Havnevik, Tekeste Negash, and Atakilte Beyene, eds. *Of Global Concern: Rural Livelihood Dynamics and Natural Resource Governance.* Stockholm: SIDA, 2006. 263 pp. Tables. Figures. References. Appendix. Annex. List of acronyms. No price reported. Paper.

This edited collection by Havnevik, Negash, and Beyene should be read as halfway between an academic book and a donor-commissioned research report. Published in the Swedish International Development Agency's "SIDAstudies" series, it attempts the hard job of putting research content in policy advice with a style that is meant to captivate both policymakers and academics engaged "on the ground." Having attempted on occasion such "compromise" writing myself, I am sympathetic toward the difficulties in achieving results that can please both communities. Fortunately, the book does not read as a policy document with simplistic recommendations, but attempts in a fairly honest way to address the complexities of rural livelihoods and natural resource governance to highlight the limitations and contradictions of policymaking and donor support in Africa and elsewhere.

The volume consists of a well-structured introduction providing a background, an overview of the chapters and of cross-cutting issues, and some broad policy implications. The background takes the reader historically from the agricultural and rural policies of the 1980s and 1990s to the current "sustainable livelihoods" approach via the emergence of the concept of "governance." The chapters cover a variety of topics and of geographical settings (with case studies covering Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, India, and—in a refreshingly introspective way—Sweden). Although the introduction attempts to develop some unifying themes (complexity of rural livelihoods, access to land, global governance creating space for action "from below"), unfortunately the chapters do not follow an explicit logic. This leaves the reader at a loss about the merits of each chapter in relation to the overall argument and how the chapters

https://doi.org/10.1353/arw.2005.0129 Published online by Cambridge University Press

relate to one another.

But the ultimate tests to judge the book are posed by the editors themselves. One is to "show that a deeper understanding of rural dynamics and natural resource governance... [requires] an improved approach that connects economic, political, social and cultural dimensions and as well the linkages between micro and macro levels" (18). And another is to widen "the scope of analysis so... [as to cover] vertical and horizontal interconnections." To a large extent, the book fails to achieve these objectives. When cultural norms are unpacked at all, this happens in normative and modernist ways: "norms... constitute hindrances to both economic dynamism and to income diversification" (99). Also, the chapters do not adequately explore the vertical linkages that influence the dynamics of rural livelihoods—in any case not beyond local and national institutions and policies. There is no analysis of market access, trade, or value chains that link rural producers in the South with consumers in the North.

Finally, the book advocates "genuine research partnerships" (30) between Southern and Northern research institutions that go beyond "capacity building." More information on how the research project(s) that were behind the various chapters came about, how they were funded, and who set the priorities would have been a genuine test of the good intentions of the authors. Perhaps it would have even justified the otherwise haphazard way in which the chapters were assembled.

Stefano Ponte
Danish Institute for International Studies
Copenhagen, Denmark

Etienne van de Walle, ed. *African Households: Censuses and Surveys.* Amonk, N.Y., and London: M.E. Sharpe, 2006. xxxix + 247 pp. Figures. Maps. Tables. References. Index. $104.95. Cloth.

Peter Laslett first showed us the sociological information available in historical census data. African census and survey data are rarely employed to such ends, so the African Census Analysis Project, a collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania and African institutions, arranged an Internet conference on African households in November 2001. These are the published results.

Here the "household" is merely a unit of enumeration. It generally contains members of at least one family, plus, often, unrelated others. Censuses take one of two definitions of the household. Francophone researchers tend to adopt a de jure, or social, definition of the household, thus including those who are absent on the enumeration day, while Anglophone researchers prefer a de facto, or residential, definition, and count only those physically present. The former runs the risk of double counts, while the latter tends to manufacture extra households and female heads.

https://doi.org/10.1353/arw.2005.0129 Published online by Cambridge University Press