

"*Grassroots Warriors* draws on feminist theory, urban and political sociology, and public policy in a way that is pertinent, informed, and sophisticated....It would be impossible to understand what these women did and do, their politics and their community orientation without this gendered analysis. This is an expression of the experience and culture of women."

- Frances Fox Piven, author of *Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare*

"*Grassroots Warriors* brings women and gender into the history of community action. Naples has done a terrific job interweaving personal narratives with policy history, navigating between ethnography and political sociology, and illuminating the local life of the welfare state with feminist theory. This book provokes us with a richer, deeper, and more complicated appreciation for the dynamics of gender among women and in society."

- Gwendolyn Mink, author of *The Wages of Motherhood: Inequality in the Welfare State*

"*Grassroots Warriors* provides a welcome counterpoint to the harsh judgments of those who disparage poor women for lacking work and family ethics and illustrates instead how the community action programs provided women opportunities to develop skills that enhanced their abilities to contribute to their communities. Nancy Naples provides a theoretically insightful analysis of the progressive possibilities of anti-poverty policy."

- Jill Quadagno, author of *The Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on Poverty*



Who are the grassroots warriors on the front lines of the war on poverty?

Through in-depth interviews, *Grassroots Warriors* presents the voices of over sixty women—African American, Puerto Rican, and white European American—who fought for social and economic justice in the low income neighborhoods of New York City and Philadelphia. Naples reconceptualizes labor, mothering, and politics from the standpoint of women committed to political organizing on behalf of low income urban neighborhoods. Her analysis reveals significant legacies from past social movements, and examines how gender, ethnicity, and class influence political consciousness and practice.

Nancy A. Naples is Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She is the editor of *Community Activism and Feminist Politics: Organizing Across Race, Class, and Gender* (Routledge).

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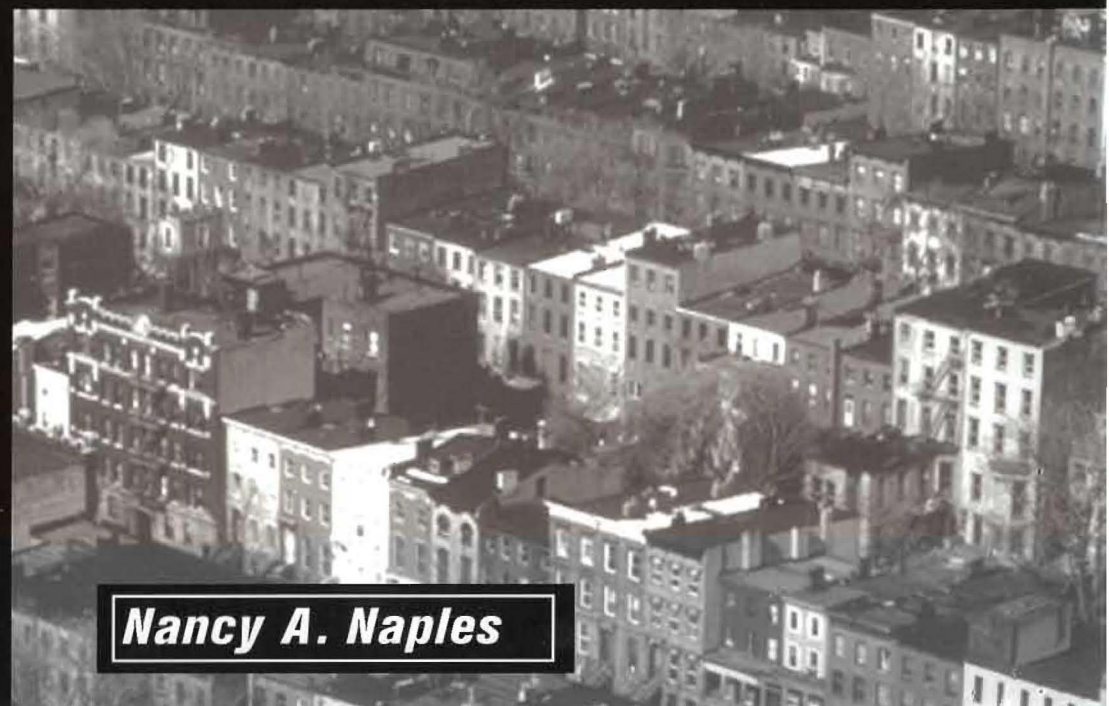
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Activist Mothering, Community Work, and the War on Poverty

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