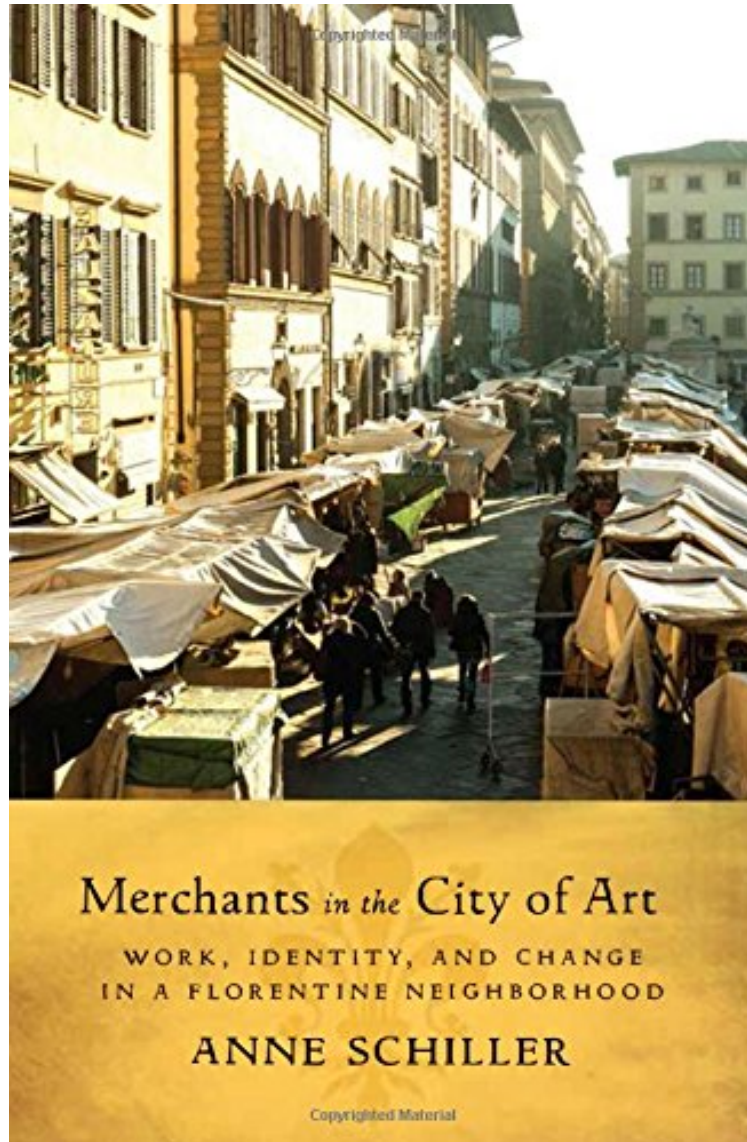


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(Teaching Culture: UTP Ethnographies for the Classroom)

Merchants in the City of Art: Work, Identity, and Change in a Florentine Neighborhood (Teaching Culture: UTP Ethnographies for the Classroom)

Anne L. Schiller

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Anne L. Schiller : Merchants in the City of Art: Work, Identity, and Change in a Florentine Neighborhood (Teaching Culture: UTP Ethnographies for the Classroom) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *Merchants in the City of Art: Work, Identity, and Change in a Florentine Neighborhood* (Teaching Culture: UTP Ethnographies for the Classroom):

This lively and engaging ethnography, written and designed with students in mind, uses the experiences and perspectives of a set of long-time market vendors in San Lorenzo, a neighborhood in the historic center of Florence, Italy, to explore how cultural identities are formed in periods of profound economic and social change.

Like Schiller, I, too, love Florence and have visited it many times, and taught there as well. So I feel very confident in saying that hers is a well-done book, her portrait of the San Lorenzo Market exactly the one I know, too. She cites all the relevant experts: Barth, Bourdieu, Geertz, Goffman, Herzfeld, Kertzer, Turner, as well as many more recent Italian articles and books on Florence. Her knowledge of spoken Italian, particularly its proverbs, appears extensive. (Gloria Nardini, *Journal of Folklore Research*) This fascinating and accessible ethnography provides an insider's look at Florence's San Lorenzo market, one of Italy's most well-known, and traditional, local marketplaces. Like markets throughout Italy, San Lorenzo is undergoing rapid change, and even decline, as the country deals with immigration and globalization pressures, and Schiller effectively captures both the romanticism and the conflicts involved. We tend to forget that iconic sites like San Lorenzo are living things, and that they, too, undergo shifts that reflect the transformations and tensions of the time. This book reminds us of this fact in an empathetic and nuanced way. (Michael Digiovine, West Chester University of Pennsylvania) *Merchants in the City of Art* visits the quotidian side of Florence beyond Renaissance art and architecture to illuminate a fascinating portrayal of history and uncertainty. In a mlang of global tourists, immigrants, and shifting ideas about heritage, Schiller artfully describes the complex politics that mutually threaten, change, and maintain the vibrancy of the San Lorenzo marketplace and the neighborhood surrounding it. (Walter Little, University at Albany-SUNY) About the Author Anne Schiller is Professor of Anthropology at George Mason University and Fulbright-Con Il Sud Visiting Professor at the University of Salento, Lecce, Italy. She has conducted research and published extensively on identity and social movements in Italy and Indonesia. She is also active in the field of international education, and writes and presents on issues of cross-border collaboration among universities.