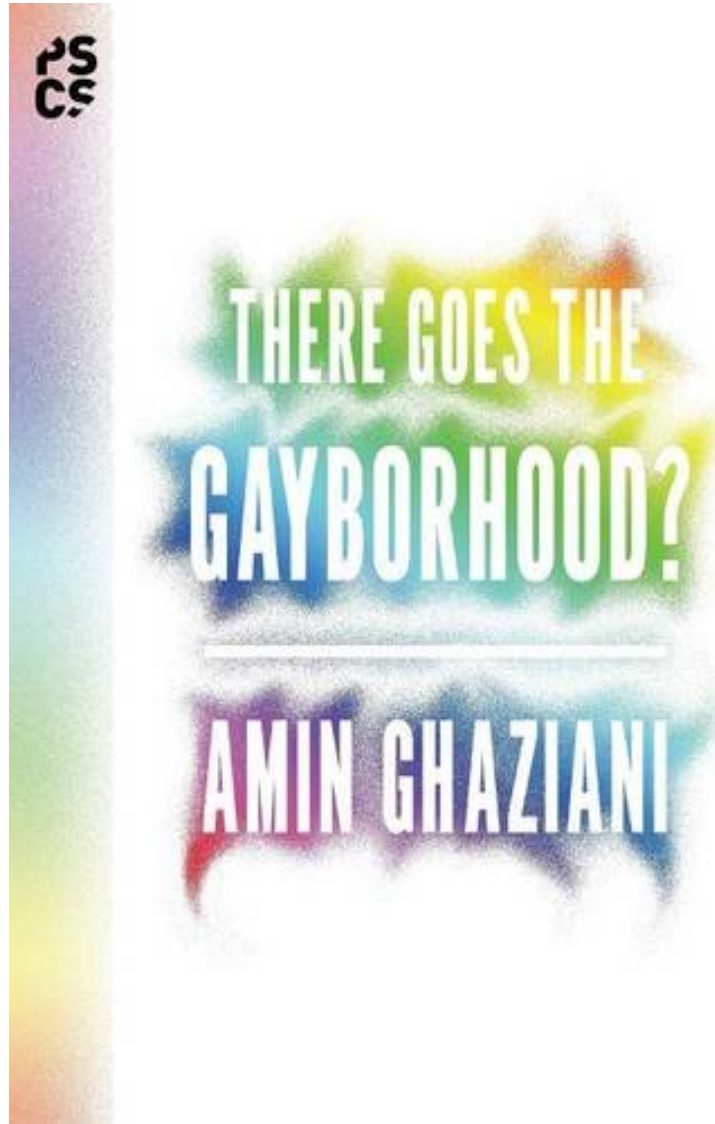


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There Goes the Gayborhood? (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology)

Amin Ghaziani

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Amin Ghaziani : There Goes the Gayborhood? (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised There Goes the Gayborhood? (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. We're witnessing great change as young LGBT people are no longer using ...By Ronni L. SanloDr. Amin Ghaziani's book is an important addition to the understanding of the LGBT

community in 2015. We're witnessing great change as young LGBT people are no longer using the labels the older generations used. They simply don't want to be labeled at all. With the advent of same sex marriage and new inclusion laws and policies, the younger generation is assimilating into the mainstream. This understanding is critical if we in higher education and those in community and national organizations are going to effectively provide services for this population. Dr. Ghaziani catches the momentum of the post-gay discourse while providing narrative of our history and perhaps even our future. I highly recommend this book for social studies and LGBT studies courses, of course, but also for any person who is a service provider for LGBT people. I also recommend it for our aging LGBT population if they want to understand why the bars, bookstores, and communities are disappearing. Very well written and engaging!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Fantastic Book When Read from Cover to Cover! By theocratesxxxiv What role do gay neighborhoods play in today's American cities? Have gay neighborhoods outlived their utility? Are gay neighborhoods destined to disappear? Amin Ghaziani addresses these questions and many more in "There Goes the Gayborhood?," a painstakingly researched book that is also highly engaging. There are many strengths to this book -- mainly that Ghaziani himself does not settle so quickly on any easy answer. The book succeeds in questioning both side of the claim that gay neighborhoods are disappearing, and while Ghaziani admits that traditional gay enclaves like the Castro are evolving, the ways in which gay neighborhoods remain vital and relevant will certainly surprise you. Make sure you read it from beginning to end; however. It is very easy to get caught up in the first half of the book, which examines how gayborhoods are on the decline . . . but that's only the beginning of his fascinating discussion. A great book for book clubs and reading groups that will spark debate for generations to come.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Chicago Centric By Albert J. Calluso This study is very Chicago centric. If you are not a current or former gay resident of Chicago, the book is not that interesting. Based on my own experieince with gay neighborhoods on the East Coast, I think the rise and fall of the gayborhood is very location specific. You have the gayborhood in Ft. Lauderdale which is thriving while the gay presence in Miami is declining. Most gay businesses and bars in the Dupon Circle area are gone or moved over to 14th street. Philadelphia, where I live, it's a mixed bag. The last gay bookstore closed, more a result of the desire of the owner to retire and competition from online retailers. After closing, it reopened as a used gay bookstore benefiting the AIDS Thrift Shop. Another established bar closed due to a fire in the adjacent building. It will unlikely reopen since the building is too valuable. Boxers, a new gay bar, just opened. The LGBT film festival, a 10 day July staple for nearly 20 years, opened this year to a limited weekend event. I find it hard to connect all of these events other than to conclude that the gayborhood in Philadelphia is in transition. I do agree with the previous commentary that economics plays a major role. The gayborhood is too expensive for many gays and those of us who bought long ago are cashing out and moving to warmer climates like Ft. Lauderdale which has more vibrant and multi-generational gayborhood.

Gay neighborhoods, like the legendary Castro District in San Francisco and New York's Greenwich Village, have long provided sexual minorities with safe havens in an often unsafe world. But as our society increasingly accepts gays and lesbians into the mainstream, are "gayborhoods" destined to disappear? Amin Ghaziani provides an incisive look at the origins of these unique cultural enclaves, the reasons why they are changing today, and their prospects for the future. Drawing on a wealth of evidence--including census data, opinion polls, hundreds of newspaper reports from across the United States, and more than one hundred original interviews with residents in Chicago, one of the most paradigmatic cities in America--*There Goes the Gayborhood?* argues that political gains and societal acceptance are allowing gays and lesbians to imagine expansive possibilities for a life beyond the gayborhood. The dawn of a new post-gay era is altering the character and composition of existing enclaves across the country, but the spirit of integration can coexist alongside the celebration of differences in subtle and sometimes surprising ways. Exploring the intimate relationship between sexuality and the city, this cutting-edge book reveals how gayborhoods, like the cities that surround them, are organic and continually evolving places. Gayborhoods have nurtured sexual minorities throughout the twentieth century and, despite the unstoppable forces of flux, will remain resonant and revelatory features of urban life.

Honorable Mention for the 2016 Robert E. Park Award, Community and Urban Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association Selected for the 2015 Over the Rainbow Project book list, American Library Association "[T]he rise of post-gay culture has introduced a new turmoil in gay neighborhoods: more gay men and women are leaving for suburbs and smaller cities, and more straight people are moving in. . . . Ghaziani doesn't think that this has wiped gayborhoods off the map--hence the question mark in his book's title. . . . Ghaziani's most interesting findings document what is happening beyond the gayborhood, in the new places to which gay men and women are relocating. . . . It's the sort of contradiction that Ghaziani argues lies at the heart of contemporary gay life."--Elizabeth Greenspan, *New Yorker* "Ghaziani offers passionate and refreshing insights on a politically charged issue. Taking the 'gayborhood' as his subject, Ghaziani analyzes the phenomenon of 'gay ghettos' using rich statistical data, historical analysis, a comprehensive review of news reports, and in-depth interviews with gays and heterosexuals. The result is a panoramic view of both the dimensions and cultural evolution of the gay neighborhood,

and a response to the titular question: are gayborhoods and their once rich cultural vibrancy in decline? Ghaziani's answers refuse easy scapegoats or facile conclusions, and suggest that the cultural evolution of gayborhoods need not entail their demise. He brings much needed nuance to heated debates about the role of gay neighborhoods in wider patterns of gentrification. . . . The findings are not to be missed."--Publishers Weekly

"In an attempt to understand a contemporary, hot-button issue facing iconic gay neighborhoods in flux, Ghaziani mines the roots of 'gayborhoods' to understand where and why they began and the challenges they face. As homosexuality gains wider societal acceptance, are the 'gay ghettos,' once considered bastions of organized solidarity, sexual freedom, and safety from anti-gay bigotry and violence, feeling the pinch? In a book rich with demographical statistics of same-sex-couple households, useful charts and personal interviews, Ghaziani delivers an unbiased perspective carefully weighing the consequences and the benefits of conformity for formerly homogenous gayborhoods countrywide. . . . Encompassing more than just the diminishing homogeneity of gay ghettos, Ghaziani's important work also demonstrates an appreciation for how the provocative past, present and future of gay culture continues to evoke impassioned rhetoric and opinion."--Kirkus

"A fascinating, rich view that is supported by up-to-date statistics. . . . Recommended for readers with a solid understanding of the history of gay culture who worry about changes to predominantly gay neighborhoods."--Jessica Spears, Library Journal

"Ghaziani believes gayborhoods won't so much disappear as morph into something different: smaller clusters of gay residents gathering together in neighborhoods all over the city. . . . The momentum of dispersal may prove more powerful than the lure of nostalgia in an era of increasing tolerance and a climate of legal equality. But Ghaziani isn't ready to concede. He proclaims his confidence that gay neighborhoods have a future in American cities, even if that future looks much different from the recent past. Whether or not he is right, he is echoing sentiments that have been expressed by a long series of minority groups as they have moved away from the 'old neighborhood' and into a new reality of assimilation in the past century and a half of American urban life."--Alan Ehrenhalt, *Governing*

"Be careful, as they say, what you wish for. A new book, *There Goes the Gayborhood?* . . . charts the apparent decline of so-called gay villages such as the Castro in San Francisco and Greenwich Village in New York, a decline, it's suggested, which has come from the very success of the gay movement in being fully accepted into mainstream life. Marriage, adoption, a revolution in public attitudes and sheer visibility have meant that there is simply no longer any need for the solidarity which came from clustering together in particular urban areas."--Peter Whittle, *Standpoint*

"In *There Goes the Gayborhood?* . . . Amin Ghaziani vivisects the transformation of these communities, which he labels 'gayborhoods,' as well as the emergence of gay enclaves in other urban precincts, suburbs, and small towns across America. . . . While some LGBT residents are moving out of the gayborhoods, Ghaziani argues that a distinct, place-based gay identity continues to evolve. It's a nuanced and complex tale--a tale of neighborhood changes and cultural shifts, an identity in flux--and Ghaziani does a nice job of telling it."--David L. Kirp, *American Prospect*

"Ghaziani offers LGBT travelers fascinating insights into the history--and likely future--of some of our most popular urban American destinations. . . . Ghaziani exudes a thoughtful optimism, sketching out the possibilities of a country in which new LGBT neighborhoods emerge and old ones are rebuilt, all on a bedrock of pride rather than discrimination."--Jim Gladstone, *Passport Magazine*

"Ghaziani has a great subject. . . . Can a gay identity exist without some kind of spatial correlative--the bars that bring people together, the book stores that reflect the histories that inform it? . . . Yes, there is a movement away from established gay neighbourhoods--but that movement is often directed toward laying the foundations of new gay neighbourhoods nearby. . . . The gaybourhood has expanded because the contemporary gay identity has expanded. But while it is a new scene out there, the narrative is an old one. Those in sexual minorities, as with those in the sexual majority, still want only the freedom to love and be loved in their own ways, to be true to their hearts in whatever fashion that assumes--to be, in effect, authentically themselves. To find fulfillment in that aim is, indeed, to discover the end of the rainbow."--John Lownsbrough, *Literary of Canada*

"Because of 'post-gay' neoliberalism and its concomitant gradual assimilation of gays and lesbians into cultural norms, the shouty 'We're here, We're Queer, Get Used to It!' is being supplanted by the whispery apologia 'I may be gay but I'm ethnically straight.' Maybe Dorothy doesn't need Oz any more. . . . [But] Ghaziani argues for the gaybourhood's longevity as an idea of safe space, and I agree. We are still not quite out of Kansas."--Sally R. Munt, *Times Higher Education*

"In *There Goes the Gayborhood?* Amin Ghaziani weighs the question of whether gays are becoming more assimilated into general neighborhoods, or whether 'gayborhoods' will survive. . . . Ghaziani concludes that gayborhoods are changing, yet will fulfill a need for some time. Gay acceptance is not universal, safe havens remain necessary and, as Ghaziani points out, similar people, whether ethnically or culturally, tend to stay together."--John B. Saul, *Seattle Times*

"Ghaziani is actually one of the best sociologists we have working in our field. Years of diligent research undergird this commentary. For every voice he evokes from his arsenal of notes, dozens more lurk silent save for the statistics: quantitative data in sharp tables and graphs suggest a tectonic shift in the geography and demography of our gayborhoods. This is a work to be trusted . . . [and] a timely book, one well-designed for lackeys and laymen alike. If you're looking to gift a good read to a smart friend, Ghaziani is a great way to go."--C. Todd White, *Out In Jersey* magazine

"[T]he use of a properly placed question mark can serve as a gentle reminder to readers that although an argument may seem straightforward, its intricate details create more questions than the author could ever hope to answer. Amin Ghaziani's *There Goes the Gayborhood?* is an exhaustive

and impressive insider's look into the historical roles and current construction of gayborhoods from an insider's perspective. The book distances itself from broad and supposedly essential narratives that mark the gayborhood as a thing of the past rather than as a continual social and sexual location of the future. . . . [H]is argument has a ripple effect on the ways that people currently view the construction of the modern day metropolis and also what truly makes and defines a city's proverbial heart. . . . Ghaziani's prose is a journey worth taking."--John Erickson, *Lambda Literary*

"[U]nique. . . . [Ghaziani] makes use of a variety of tools--personal interviews, census data, and surveys, among them--to explore what th[e] decentralization [of the gayborhood] means as part of a larger cultural shift."--Choice

"Ghaziani adopts a wide-reaching, diachronic perspective on the rise of gay neighborhoods in the USA, one informed by the analysis of an impressive indeed overwhelming range of statistical data, in support of his findings the author making use of a great deal of census data, from opinion polls to censuses of national gay and lesbian population. . . . In this highly topical well researched work, Ghaziani contributes a broad, cross-disciplinary investigation as well as an in-depth treatment of the future of gaybourhood in urban America, reflecting authoritatively on the new 'cultural archipelagos' of gay enclaves and cisgender identity."--Adriana Neagu, *American British Canadian Studies*

"There Goes the Gayborhood is an ambitious book and a valuable resource for scholars in sexualities and LGBTQ studies, urban and cultural sociology, and the general public as well. It starts an important conversation about what's happening to gay neighborhoods across the country. Its clear prose and empirical rigor make it deserving of a wide readership in and beyond sociology."--James Joseph Dean, *Gender Society*

"First comes love, then comes gay marriage, then comes a straight couple with a baby carriage. In cities across America, local residents and outside observers have become acutely aware that dense, visible, distinct gay neighborhoods seem to be disappearing from the 21st-century urban landscape. Are gay neighborhoods changing? 'Of course they are. . . . Every neighborhood will change at some point,' writes Amin Ghaziani in *There Goes the Gayborhood*, his breezy, thoughtful . . . new book. But why is it happening, and should anyone care? . . . Ghaziani sees an explanation in the emergence of a 'post-gay' mentality. . . . [He] is right that culture matters, and it will never show up in economic studies."--Christopher Capozzola, *Gay and Lesbian*

"In *There Goes the Gayborhood?*, American sociologist Amin Ghaziani takes up the question of whether or not the age of the United States gayborhood is over. . . . [He] is responding to a series of American newspaper reports declaring the gayborhood's demise. . . . The question mark in Ghaziani's title, however, is significant. Rather than finding gayborhoods in decline, what he finds is a process of change: in the meanings of sexuality and in the meanings of urban spaces. . . . A great strength in Ghaziani's book is his handling of [such] questions of change in gay life and urban space. For him, these changes are not some defining end-point to previous identities so much as they are ongoing shifts in always fluid entities."--Scott McKinnon, *Australian of Public Affairs*

"Neighborhoods, like patterns of discrimination, have their moral careers. . . . What then, is happening to the gayborhood? As sociologists are apt to say, it's complicated. But it's complicated in interesting ways. Openly LGBTQ people do live in more places and are less concentrated than they were before. . . . Like the decreasing importance of citizenship in an increasingly globalized world, there seems to be something less and less necessary about geographical belonging. And yet, the declining significance of place can often be deceptive. . . . Ghaziani reminds us how even as LGBTQ people slowly move into the mainstream, place can matter in new ways."--Iddo Tavory, *Public Books*

"*Gayborhood* is an excellent resource . . . [The book] presents an intriguing answer to its question. The gayborhood is not simply disappearing,' but it is transforming and changing. Working with this complex process rather than lamenting a time past is an interesting way to think about queerness and queer identity in a world that is also fluid and changing."--*Journal of Homosexuality*

"The year 1978 held many contradictions for gay rights in the United States. The city of San Francisco, for instance, passed one of the country's first ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, public accommodations, and employment in the private sector. Yet, later that year, Harvey Milk the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California was murdered. That same year, during his tenure at the University of Chicago, a relatively unknown sociologist (William Julius Wilson) published his groundbreaking study *The Declining Significance of Race* (1978). In that book, he argued that race had become secondary to socioeconomic status in determining an African American's life chances. *There Goes the Gayborhood?* can be best understood through the historical lens of the contradictions and diversities occurring within gay America in 1978 and beyond, as well as through the intellectual lens developed by Wilson in 1978 and beyond (1987). To see the relevance of the latter, one need only swap sexual orientation for race. In terms of the former, Mitchell Duneier and his colleagues note that good ethnography can turn into great social history' (2014, pg. 2); and indeed that's what Ghaziani has accomplished."--Juan Battle, *Social Forces*

"The book especially takes up the important question of whether or not the disappearance of predominantly gay neighborhoods indicates new urban problems or new urban possibilities. Drawing on a combination of archival, interview and ethnographic data, Ghaziani explores the rise, fall, and relative importance of establishing, sustaining and maintaining predominantly gay urban neighborhoods Once invisible areas of the city, urban gay neighborhoods have become featured in many city maps and tourism ephemera as places to see, eat, party, and understand the city writ large. Ghaziani powerfully builds from this contemporary reality to reveal the historical, political, and economic consequences of the heightened visibility of LGBT citizens and the neighborhoods in which they predominate."--Marcus Anthony Hunter, *Metropolitix*

"Drawing on an impressive array of media sources, census

counts, opinion polls, interviews and ethnographic observations, Ghaziani develops a nuanced and sophisticated understanding of social change related to gay-dominated areas within metropolitan cities. The arguments in the book are oriented around one particular paradox: the perceived decline of the gayborhood' in US cities and the emergence of a post-gay world occurred primarily because of the erosion of homophobia. How do gay people keep together, Ghaziani asks, when they no longer see the need to live in the same place for safety or solidarity? . . . Ghaziani writes in an engaging, inclusive style, and it is easy to see why his book has drawn such widespread media attention. This is done without loss of clarity or academic rigor, and is particularly welcome in a sub-discipline where language all-too-often becomes obtuse and impenetrable."--Mark McCormack, *Sociology*"[T]his is an excellent book with well-structured arguments and interesting empirics . . . Ghaziani has produced a highly relevant study on a subject which is relatively understudied in mainstream urban sociology, geography and demography. Compared with class, ethnicity and life course, there is shockingly little work on the role of sexuality in understanding the changes, meanings and effects' of neighbourhoods and in residential mobility. As societal acceptance is growing, urban scholars can no longer be content with the odd gaybourhood case study or with simply casting gays as typical gentrifiers."--Wouter van Gent, *Urban Studies*"Ghaziani provides us with a thoughtful consideration not only of the contextual drivers of change in gay residential concentration in urban neighborhoods, but a vision for the role that gayborhoods still have yet to play in the lives of sexual minorities and urban landscapes into the twenty-first century."--Brian C. Kelly, *City Community*"There Goes the Gayborhood? is a well-researched, timely study that should be of interest to both urban and sexuality scholars. The book is well written and accessible, making it appropriate for graduate and undergraduate students as well as for more general readers."--Melinda D. Kane, *American Journal of Sociology*"[A] well-written, thoroughly researched, and engaging book."--Matt Ruther, *Contemporary Sociology*From the Back Cover"Through the lens of gayborhoods, Amin Ghaziani offers a provocative and insightful new analysis of the gay experience. He combines historical documentation, popular media accounts, and empirical data to tell a compelling story of how gayborhoods shaped LGBT and urban life in America and considers what might be next for these enclaves in a post-gay society."--Gary J. Gates, Williams Institute, University of California, Los Angeles"What happens to cities when gay life moves out of the closet and into the streets? In this important book, Amin Ghaziani examines the cultural politics and political economy of the gayborhood, charting its emergence as a safe space in a hostile environment and its evolving role in the gentrifying metropolis. *There Goes the Gayborhood?* is original, timely, and provocative. It's destined to spark a heated debate."--Eric Klinenberg, author of *Going Solo* and *Heat Wave*"As gayness moves from the closet to the mainstream, the social and spatial structure of the gay community is inevitably changing. Social transformations are always expressed in the urban landscape, and gay neighborhoods are no exception. In his superb new book, Amin Ghaziani offers a nuanced and perceptive guide to the changing nature of gay life in contemporary urban America. As a former resident of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood during its heyday, I read the book with great interest and much appreciation for the power of Ghaziani's sociological imagination."--Douglas S. Massey, Princeton University"Gayborhoods may come and go, but identities continue to inform processes of urbanization. This is a lively and informative read that contributes to contemporary theorizing on sexuality and space. Ghaziani deftly parses through demographic information and sociological narratives to clarify the histories and futures of sexual communities in the era of the post-gay."--Jasbir K. Puar, author of *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*"Examining the declining centrality of iconic urban gayborhoods in the wake of dramatic gains in social acceptance of gays and lesbians, Ghaziani nimbly escapes the twin pitfalls of lamenting liberationist losses or celebrating assimilationist victories. This sensitive and sensible intervention into 'post-gay' discourse on the shifting social geography of sex and the city makes welcome contributions to both queer and urban studies."--Judith Stacey, New York University"There Goes the Gayborhood? is an extraordinarily researched and considered study of how we understand neighborhoods, communities, and cities in the post-gay era. Despite the increasing tolerance and support of gay culture in today's society, Ghaziani makes a clear and cogent case that the gayborhood remains an important source of identity, social capital, and solidarity among sexual minorities."--Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, author of *The Warhol Economy*"Marshaling census data, historical records, and voices of gayborhood denizens, Ghaziani tells the complex story of queer geographies in the United States. In doing so, he eloquently documents how gayborhoods--their compositions, meanings, and functions--have evolved along with larger cultural, gendered, economic, and sexual changes."--C. J. Pascoe, author of *Dude, You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*"There Goes the Gayborhood? contributes to the important and growing literature on sexuality, moving past questions about individual identity and social-movement activism to address broader questions about daily life, social interaction, and the spaces in which people live."--Robert Wuthnow, author of *Small-Town America*About the AuthorAmin Ghaziani is associate professor of sociology at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of *The Dividends of Dissent: How Conflict and Culture Work in Lesbian and Gay Marches on Washington*.