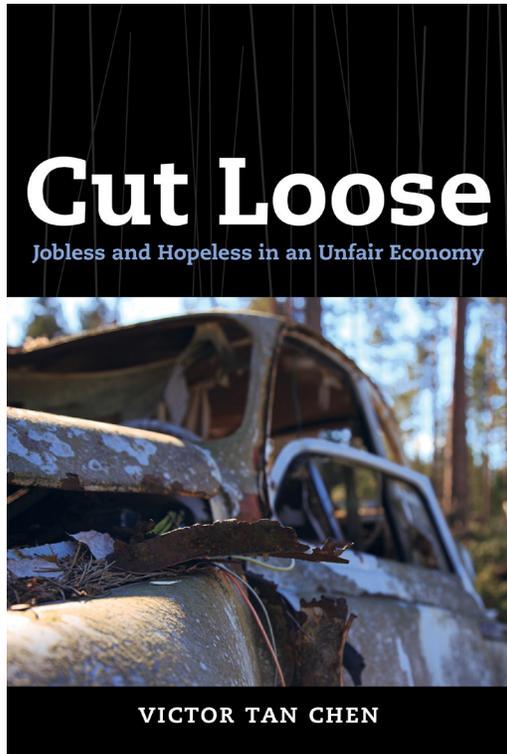
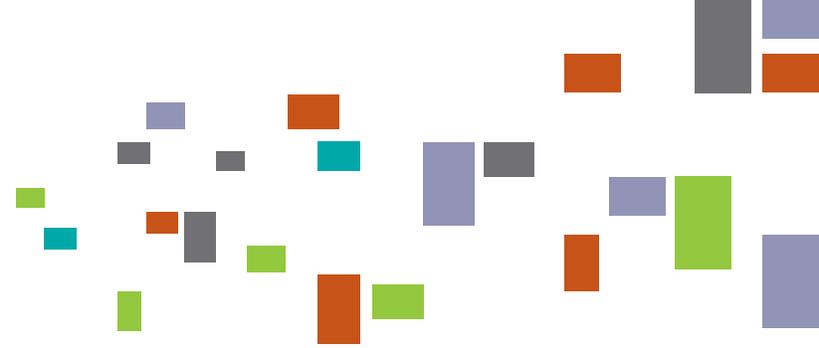


NEW

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Cut Loose

Jobless and Hopeless in an Unfair Economy

VICTOR TAN CHEN

“The most powerful and poignant study of the effects of prolonged joblessness in today’s economy that I have read. Chen’s illuminating and accessible study, which serves as a call to action, is a must-read.”—William Julius Wilson, Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyster University Professor, Harvard University

“*Cut Loose* is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the costs of globalization on the ground and the efficacy of social policy for protecting citizens caught in the grip of profound economic change.”—Katherine Newman, co-author of *Learning to Labor in the 21st Century*

Years after the Great Recession, the economy is still weak, and an unprecedented number of workers have sunk into long spells of unemployment. *Cut Loose* provides a vivid and moving account of the experiences of some of these men and women, through the example of a historically important group: autoworkers. Their well-paid jobs on the assembly lines built a strong middle class in the decades after World War II. But today, they find themselves beleaguered in a changed economy of greater inequality and risk, one that favors the well-educated—or well-connected.

Their declining fortunes in recent decades tell us something about what the white-collar workforce should expect to see in the years ahead, as job-killing technologies and the shipping of work overseas take away even more good jobs. *Cut Loose* offers a poignant look at how the long-term unemployed struggle in today’s unfair economy to support their families, rebuild their lives, and overcome the shame and self-blame they deal with on a daily basis. It is also a call to action—a blueprint for a new kind of politics, one that offers a measure of grace in a society of ruthless advancement.

Victor Tan Chen is an assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University and the founding editor of *In The Fray* magazine. He is the co-author, with Katherine S. Newman, of *The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America*.

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