



Stockton Professors Author Book on Life in the Atlantic City Casino Industry

Dr. Ellen Mutari, Dr. Deborah Figart to Hold Book Signing Feb. 20

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Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593

Galloway Township, NJ - A new book by two professors from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey explores life stories of individual casino workers in Atlantic City in the context of the history of the city and the now-global gaming industry.

Just One More Hand - Life in the Casino Economy, by Dr. Ellen Mutari, professor of Economics, and Dr. Deborah M. Figart, professor of Education and Economics, is being published this month by Rowman & Littlefield and is available as an e-book or in cloth cover. The book comes as four casinos have closed in the resort in a little over a year's time.

A book signing with the authors will be held at Stockton on **Friday, Feb. 20** at the Campus bookstore on the main Galloway campus from 4-6 p.m. Stockton is located about 15 miles from Atlantic City.

Mutari and Figart's book tells a story that workers all over can relate to: an industry that promised a solid and stable livelihood is being transformed by competitive pressures, causing employees to lose their economic footing. What seemed like a good job one day becomes a bad job the next. Incorporating the real experiences of casino employees, the book demonstrates the difficulties for local communities that are building new casinos in the hopes of luring tourists. Local communities placing all their chips on casinos as an economic development strategy face increasingly long odds.

Policy makers hoping to offset these trends are trying to rebrand Atlantic City for a younger, hipper, and more well-to-do clientele using public-private partnerships. Unfortunately, Mutari and Figart found, scant attention is being paid to the core issue in economic development—the need for sustainable livelihoods and meaningful work. The book explores the realities of the industry and the lives and challenges its workers are facing.

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Dr. Mutari is an expert on labor market and employment policies; gender, race-ethnicity, and class; economic history and the contemporary political economy.

She is coauthor of *Living Wages, Equal Wages: Gender and Labor Market Policies in the United States* (Routledge, 2002), *Women and the Economy: A Reader* (M.E. Sharpe, 2003), and *Gender and Political Economy: Incorporating Diversity into Theory and Public Policy* (M.E. Sharpe, 1997). She was the editor for the Routledge IAFFE Advances in Feminist Economics book series from 2008-2013. She is currently the president of the Association for Social Economics.

Dr. Figart is an internationally known scholar in the field of labor and employment issues. She has written on the subjects of equal pay, working time, emotional labor at work, minimum and living wage issues, job evaluation, career ladders, and reaching methods.

Dr. Figart previously served as director of the Stockton Center for Economic and Financial Literacy and as dean of the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, from July 2004 – March 2010.

She is the author or editor of 16 books or monographs. Her edited volumes include *Handbook of Research on Gender and Economic Life* (Edward Elgar, 2013), *Living Standards and Social Well-Being* (Routledge, 2011), and *Working Time: International Trends, Theory, and Policy Perspectives* (Routledge, 2000). She is coauthor of *Living Wages, Equal Wages: Gender and Labor Market Policies in the United States*, with Ellen Mutari and Marilyn Power (Routledge, 2002). She is a former president of the Association for Social Economics and served as co-editor of the *Review of Social Economy* from 2005-2013. She is currently president-elect of the Association for Evolutionary Economics.

For more information on *Just One More Hand*, visit www.rowman.com .

Deborah Figart photo:

<http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos//facebook/images/Deborah%20Figart.jpg>

Ellen Mutari photo:

<http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos//facebook/images/Ellen%20Mutari.jpg>

Book cover:

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