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BRIEFLY NOTED

Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy, directed and produced by **Reneé Bergan** and **Mark Schuller**. Watertown, MA: Documentary Educational Resources, 2009. Color, 50 minutes. docued@der.org. \$29.95.

Even if the recent earthquake had not shattered the Haitian capital, this film would be well worth viewing for its generalizability to other poor countries. It now has unanticipated historical significance since it was filmed months prior to the natural disaster, and many of the buildings that are featured were destroyed, probably along with some of the protagonists. Five women are interviewed at length, separated by poetic interludes of repeated material. One sees that their struggles to survive against mighty odds personify the working conditions of women in developing countries around the globe. Despite lack of credentials or much formal education, the women exhibit a sophisticated understanding of Haiti's political-economy. Where once there were jobs which brought thousands from the countryside into the city, in their place one found, prior to the earthquake, massive unemployment and locked gates of closed factories. International trade agreements destroyed the market for the products these women worked so hard to produce, some of whom, for instance, helped assemble 75 pairs of jeans per hour to earn a few dollars a day. They speak honestly and with an informed skepticism about the future of the Haitian economy, even before disaster struck.

There are subtle connections made between chronic and widespread unemployment among the women, and violence perpetrated upon them by men who are in the same dire straits. The great strength of the film is in allowing the five women—Jean-Marie, garment worker, without funds for her children's schooling; Solange, who analyzes violence; Frislina, member of a woman's labor organization free of dominating men; Thérèse, a victim of poor health care; Hélène, a champion of women's self-defense against

physical attack—to speak from their hearts at length, without moralizing from a narrator. The film should be in all university libraries for classroom use.

Making Sense of Global Health Governance: A Policy Perspective, edited by **Kent Buse**, **Wolfgang Hein**, and **Nick Drager**. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. 366 pp. \$90.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780230209923.

Written in language accessible to both novice scholars and health policy makers, this interdisciplinary work provides an overview of the role of globalization in producing changes in the spread of disease, the norms governing health policy, and the availability of social and economic resources for combating ill health. The book provides not only a summary of the historical context of global health governance to date, but also a review of the concepts and frameworks that are most vital to understanding global health policy. This discussion focuses on both the inter- and intra-nation forces that shape world health. The unifying theme throughout is the assertion that, given the confluence of resources and awareness of health issues spurred on by globalization, policymakers and non-state actors are in the midst of a unique opportunity to create sensible, lasting solutions to global health concerns; however, the authors also note the limitations imposed by current power imbalances, which render the opportunity fragile. Several chapters are devoted to exploring the complexities of existing global health policies targeted at specific health concerns, such as HIV/AIDS and chronic illnesses. A balanced discussion of existing policies is provided, and policy recommendations are interspersed throughout. Given the inclusion of both a thorough, comprehensible summary of the current state of global health governance and well thought out policy prescriptions, this work should prove useful not only to policymakers, but also to those seeking an introduction to global health policy.