

## Curriculum Vitae

MITCHEL Y. ABOLAFIA

### Office

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy  
University at Albany  
State University of New York  
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### Home

93 Hurst Ave  
Albany, N.Y.  
12208

### Education

Ph.D.	State University of New York at Stony Brook, Sociology
M.A.	State University of New York at Stony Brook, Sociology
B.A.	Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, Sociology

### Teaching Positions

1990 to Present	<u>Assistant Professor to Professor</u> , Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany/SUNY.
1998 to 1999	<u>Visiting Associate Professor of Management</u> , Sloan School Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
1983-1990	<u>Assistant Professor</u> of Behavioral and Organizational Science, Johnson Graduate School of Management, and the Department of Sociology, Cornell University.
1981-1983	<u>Assistant Professor</u> in the Graduate School of Management and the Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis.

### Administrative Positions

2009 to 2015	Director of the Doctoral Program in Public Administration and Policy
1999 to 2000	Director of the Doctoral Program in Public Administration and Policy,
1996 to 1998	Director of the Doctoral Program in Public Administration and

1999 to 2012 Policy  
Deputy Editor, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography

### **Areas of Research Interest**

Organizational Theory, Economic Sociology, Public Management,

### **Areas of Teaching Interest**

Organizational Theory, Public Management, Strategic Management,  
Ethnographic Methods, Economic Sociology

### **Honors and Awards**

2022 - Viviana Zelizer Best Book Award in Economic Sociology, Honorable Mention, American Sociological Association, for *Stewards of the Market*.  
2006 - Award for Best Paper published in Group & Organization Management in 2006, Vol. 31

### **Book Publications**

*Stewards of the Market: How the Fed Made Sense of the Financial Crisis*, Harvard University Press, 2020

*Making Markets: Opportunism and Restraint on Wall Street*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997, 2001 (paper).

Translated into Chinese as *Hua Er Jie*, China Society Press. Beijing, 1999

Chapter One, "Homo Economicus Unbound" reprinted in *Readings in Economic Sociology*, Nicole Biggart (editor), Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

*Markets: Critical Studies in Economic Institutions*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2005.

### **Journal Articles and Chapters in Edited Volumes**

Mitchel Y. Abolafia, Jennifer E. Dodge, and Stephen K. Jackson,

"Clifford Geertz and the Interpretation of Organizations" in *The Oxford Handbook of Sociology, Social Theory and Organization Studies: Contemporary Currents*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, (2014)

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Deneen M. Hatmaker

“Fine-tuning the Signal: Image and Identity at the Federal Reserve” *International Public Management Journal*, Vol. 16 #4, pp. 532-556, 2013  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/9h5VKYcYtATxJ8uWKmQt/full>

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Separate Spheres? The Cultural Contradictions of Markets” *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*, Vol. 62, pp. 265-271, 2013

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Central Banking and the Triumph of Technical Rationality” *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Finance*, Karen Knorr-Cetina and Alex Preda (eds), Oxford University Press, pp 94-112, 2012.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Monetary Policy in the United States” in *Governing America: Major Decisions of Federal, State and Local Government*, Paul Quirk and William Cunion (editors), New York: Facts on File, 2011.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“The Institutional Embeddedness of Market Failure: Why Speculative Bubbles Still Occur” *Research in the Sociology of Organizations*, Vol. 30, pp. 177-200, 2010.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Can Speculative Bubbles Be Managed?: An Institutional Analysis” *Strategic Organization*, Vol. 8 #1, pp 93-100, 2010.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Narrative Construction as Sensemaking: How a Central Bank Thinks” *Organization Studies*, Vol. 31 #3, pp. 349-367, 2010.

Paul D. Nugent and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Imagining the Iron Cage: Rhetoric in Critical Ethnography” *Ethnography*, Vol.8 #2, 2007.

Paul D. Nugent and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“The Creation of Trust through Interaction and Exchange: The Role of Consideration in Organizations” *Group and Organization Management*, Vol. 31 #6, pp 628-650, 2006.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

"Financial Markets" in *International Encyclopedia of Economic Sociology*, Jens Beckert and Milan Zafirovski (editors), London: Routledge, pp 272-277, 2006.

James M. Jasper, Mitchel Y. Abolafia, and Frank Dobbin

"Structure and Strategy on the Exchanges: A Critique and Conversation about Making Markets" *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 20 #3, pp. 473-487, 2005.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Understanding Markets” in *Markets: Critical Studies in Economic Institutions*, Mitchel Abolafia (editor), Cheltenham (UK): Edward Elgar, pp. ix-xvii, 2005

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Making Sense of Recession: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Economic Action” in *The Economic Sociology of Capitalism*, Victor Nee and Richard Swedberg (eds.), Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 204-226, 2005.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

"Framing Moves: Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, Vol. 14, no.3, 2004

Bien Baez and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship and Institutional Change: A Sensemaking Approach,” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, Vol. 12, #4, October 2002.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Fieldwork on Wall Street” *Urban Life*, G. Gmelch and W.P. Zenner (eds.), Prospect Heights, Ill: Waveland Press, 2001.

Shahpar Modarresi, Dianna L. Newman, and Mitchel Y. Abolafia.

“Academic Evaluators versus Practitioners: Alternative Experiences of Professionalism,” *Evaluation and Program Planning*, Vol. 24:1. pp 1-11, Spring 2001.

Ralph Brower, Mitchel Y. Abolafia, and Jared Carr

“On Improving Qualitative Methods in Public Administration Research,” *Administration and Society*, Vol. 32 No.4, pp 363- 397, September 2000.

Reprinted in *Qualitative Research in Political Science*. J Blatter, et. al., Sage Publications, 2016.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Markets as Cultures: An Ethnographic Approach,” *The Laws of Markets*, Michel Callon (ed.), Blackwell Publishers, 1998.

Reprinted in *New Developments in Economic Sociology*, Richard Swedberg (editor), Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, (2005)

Ralph Brower and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Bureaucratic Politics: The View from Below,” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, Vol. VII #2 pp 305-331, April 1997.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Hyper-rational Gaming,” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Vol.25 No.2, pp 226-250, July 1996

Ralph Brower and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Procedural Entrepreneurship: Enacting Alternative Channels to Administrative Effectiveness,” *American Review of Public Administration*, Vol. 26 # 3, pp 287-308, 1996.

Ralph Brower and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“The Structural Embeddedness of Resistance Among Public Managers,” *Group and Organization Management*, Vol. 20(2), pp 149-165, 1995.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Henry Tosi

“Conflict and the Forms of Organization,” in *The Environment/Organization/Person Contingency Model: A Meso Approach to the Study of Organization*, H. Tosi, (Ed.), Greenwich, Ct: JAI Press, pp 97-117,

1992.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Nicole W. Biggart

“Competition and Markets: An Institutional Perspective,” in *Socio-Economics: A New Synthesis*, Amitai Etzioni and Paul Lawrence (Eds.), Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, pp 211-231, 1991.

A revised version of this paper was published as “Competitive Systems: A Sociological View,” in *Real Life Economics*, Paul Ekins and Max Neef (Eds.), New York: Routledge, pp 315-322, 1992.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Martin Kilduff

“Enacting Market Crisis: The Social Construction of a Speculative Bubble,” *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 33(2), pp 177-193, 1988.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Self-Regulation as Market Maintenance: An Organizational Perspective,” in *Regulatory Policy and Social Science*, Roger Noll (Ed.), Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp 312-342, 1985.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Structured Anarchy: Formal Organization in the Commodity Futures Markets,” in the *Social Dynamics of Financial Markets*, Peter Adler and Patricia Adler (Eds.), Greenwich, CT: JAI Press, pp 129-150, 1984.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Coordinating for the Collective Good: A Study of Coastal Zone Planning,” *Administration and Society*, Vol. 11(2), pp 172-192, 1979.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Alan L. Kafka

“Toward a Measure of Socio-Seismicity: A Contribution to Earthquake Risk Assessment,” in *Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Microzonation*, 1978.

## **Working Papers**

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Epistemic Promiscuity: Ways of Knowing in a Policy Meeting”

## **Book Reviews**

Review of *The Return of Inequality: Social Change and the Weight of the Past*, by Mike Savage, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 67 #2, 2022

Review of *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street* by Karen Ho, *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 116 #1 pp. 272-273.

Review of *Frontiers of Capital: Ethnographic Reflections on the New Economy*. Melissa S. Fisher and Greg Downey (Eds.), *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 114 #3, November 2008.

Review of *The Architecture of Markets*, Neil Fligstein in *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 47 #4, December 2002.

Review of *Success and Survival on Wall Street*, Charles W. Smith in *Contemporary Sociology*, Vol. 30 #3, 2001.

Review of *Morality, Rationality, and Efficiency*, Richard Coughlin (Ed.), in *Contemporary Sociology*, Vol. 22(2), pp 252-253, 1993.

Review of *Values in the Marketplace: The American Stock Market Under Federal Securities Law*, by James Burk in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 96(4), pp 1014-1016, 1991.

Review of *The Moral Dimension: Toward a New Economics*, by Amitai Etzioni, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 34(3), pp 496-498, 1989.

Review of *Chronicles of Corporate Change: Management Lessons from AT&T and Its Offspring*, Leonard A. Schlesinger, David Dyer, Thomas Clough, and Diane Landau, *Contemporary Sociology*, Vol. 17(5), 1988.

## **Presentations:**

2017- “Logics of Intervention: Financial Crisis and the Federal Reserve”  
Public Management Research Conference, Washington, D.C., June 8-10.

2017- “Taming the Market: Crisis and Decision and the Federal Reserve,  
Davis Conference on Qualitative Research, Davis, California, March 24<sup>th</sup>-  
26<sup>th</sup>

2016- “The Unobtrusive Power of Ideas” European Group in Organization Studies, July 10, 2016.

2015- Epistemic Failure at the Federal Reserve, Cornell Global Financial Initiative, November 13

2015 – “Textures of Uncertainty” Public Management Research Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 13, 2015

2015 – “Epistemic Failure at the Federal Reserve” MaxPo Seminar, SciencePo, Paris, June 1, 2015

2014 – Taming the Market: Crisis and decision and the Federal Reserve” Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University, April 10, 2014

2013 – “No Crystal Ball: Prediction, Models and the Federal Reserve” Public Management Research Conference, Madison Wisconsin, June 2013

2013- Fine-tuning the Signal: Image and Identity at the Federal Reserve,” Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, USC, April 15, 2013

2013 – “No Crystal Ball: The Culture of Prediction at the Federal Reserve,” Heidelberg University, Germany, June 2013.

2012- “ The Cultural Contradictions of Markets” Keynote speech at the Conference on Economic Culture in Modern Capitalism, St. Petersburg University, Russia, June 29-30.

2012 – “ Fine-tuning the Signal: Image and Identity at the Federal Reserve,” Seminar at the Department of Law and Business Ethics, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, April 26.

2011 “ Pseudo-learning: The Appearance of Learning in a Group Policy Making Process” with Hyun Jung Kim, Public Management Research Conference, Syracuse , N.Y. June 2.

2011 – “ Technical Rationality and Interpretive Power in Public Organizations”

Public Management Research Conference , Syracuse, N.Y. June 4.

2010 – “The Interpretive Power of Organizations,” Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 9.

2010 - “ The Institutional Embeddedness of Market Failure: Why We Still Have Speculative Bubbles” Reembedding Finance Conference, University of Paris, (keynote

speaker),

May 20 – 21.

2010- “The Institutional Embeddedness of Market Failure: Why We Still Have Speculative Bubbles” Socializing Economic Relationships Conference (Keynote Speaker), Oxford University, April 15-16.

2009 – “Why Speculative Bubbles Still Occur: Limits to the Rationalization of Finance Capital, Markets on Trial Conference, Evanston, Ill., November

2009 – “Why Speculative Bubbles Still Occur: An Institutional Approach” Public Management Research Association, Columbus, Ohio, October 2.

2009 – “Fine-tuning the Signal: The Practice of Power at the Federal Reserve”, Keynote address to Conference on Financial Elites, London School of Economics, September 18.

2009 – “Fine-tuning the Signal: An Institutional Analysis”, Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Chicago, Ill, August 10, 2009

2009 – “Can Speculative Bubbles Be Managed” Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Chicago, Ill., August 10, 2009

2008 - “Fine-tuning the Signal” Center for Economic and Social Research, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. November 2008.

2008 - “Fine-Tuning the Signal” Macro-Organizational Behavior Society, Evanston, Ill, October 2008

2008 – “Narrative Construction at a Central Bank” American Sociological Association, Boston, Ma., August 1, 2008

2007 – “Signal Construction at the Federal Reserve” Public Management Research Conference, Tucson, Arizona, October 25, 2007.

2007 – “How the Fed Thinks: Narrative Construction at the Federal Reserve,” Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Public and Non Profit Division, Philadelphia, August 6, 2007

2006 “Narrative Construction in Policy Making” European Group for Organizational Studies,” Bergen, Norway, July 6, 2006

2005 – “Muddling Through Together” Public Management Research Conference, Los Angeles, September 30, 2005

- 2004 - "Models in Use" American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August 14
- 2004 - "Frames, Focal Points and Anecdotes: Ways of Knowing at the Federal Reserve" Inaugural Conference, Department of Sociology, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, June 3-6, 2004
- 2004 - "Models in Use: Economic Knowledge at the Federal Reserve" Corporations, Markets and the State: A Multidisciplinary Inquiry, George Washington University Law School, March 4-6
- 2003 - "Framing Moves: Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" Public Management National Research Conference, Washington, D.C. October
- 2003- "Enacting Economic Knowledge" American Sociological Association, Atlanta, August 18.
- 2003- " Framing Moves: Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" Academy of Management, Seattle, August 3-6.
- 2003- "The Limits of Knowledge at the Federal Reserve" Financial Knowledge in Global Financial Markets, Konstanz, Germany, May 16-18.
- 2003- " Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" Third Conference on Economic Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, March 1.
- 2002- "Institutional Change in High Poverty Schools", Conference on Advancing the Institutional Research Agenda in Education, University at Albany, September 20, 2002
- 2002- "Markets in Action: A Cultural Perspective," American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 18, 2002.
- 2002- "Making Sense of Recession," Conference on Social Studies of Finance - Columbia University/Social Science Research Council, New York City, May 3-4, 2002.
- 2001- "Making Sense of Recession: Policy Making at the Federal Reserve," Cornell Conference on the Economic Sociology of Capitalism, Ithaca, New York, September 28-29.
- 2001 - "Excellence in Public Management: A Problem in Construct Validity," Academy of Management Meeting, Washington, D.C., August 8
- 2000 - "Sensemaking in a Monetary Crisis," Conference on the Cultures of Financial Markets, Bielefeld, Germany, November 10-11

- 2000 - "Contested Ideologies and Dominant Frames: Sensemaking in a Monetary Crisis," Academy of Management Meeting, Toronto, Canada, August 7
- 2000 - "Making Sense of Institutional Change: Narratives of De-Institutionalization," Academy of Management Meeting, Toronto, Canada, August 8
- 2000 - "Interpreting Market Cultures," Conference on Economic Sociology at the Edge of the Third Millennium, Moscow, Russia, January 14-15
- 1999 - "Beyond Politics: The Rhetoric of Monetary Policy," American Sociological Association, Chicago, Il, August 6
- 1999 - "Logics of Action in Market Cultures," Social Science Research Council, Korilov, Russia, March 15
- 1998 - "Sensemaking at the Federal Reserve Board: An Ethnography of Economic Policy," American Sociological Association, San Francisco, Ca
- 1998 - "Local Rationality in Market Cultures," 1st Portuguese Conference on Economic Sociology, Lisbon, Portugal, March 4-6
- 1997 - "Making Markets: Opportunism and Restraint on Wall Street," Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Montreal, Canada
- 1997 - "Overcoming Institutional Defensiveness," American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.

### **Grants Received:**

Office of Naval Research, "Know Thyself: The Organizational Culture, Networks, and Behavior of Counterinsurgency and Stability Operations" May 2009 – 2010, \$447,856 (With Karl Rethemeyer and Victor Asal)

State University of New York Research Foundation "Explaining Market Organization: The Decline of the Specialist System on the New York Stock Exchange." April 15, 1991 through April 4, 1992. \$3,500.00

NYSUUP New Faculty Development Award. July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991. \$730.

Cornell University Johnson Graduate School of Management. "Research on the Culture of Investment Banks." September 1987 through July 1990. \$14,000.00.

### **Teaching Experience**

Graduate Level	Organizational Theory and Behavior (PhD Level) Organizational Behavior and Theory (Master's Level) Contemporary Organization Theory (Ph.D. Level) Cultural Analysis in Organizations Strategy Implementation: Process and Politics Strategic Management Foundations of Public Management
Undergraduate Level	Sociology of Organizations Industrialization and Social Change Political Sociology Introduction to Sociology Understanding Public Organizations
Dissertation Committees	15 Chair, 20 Committee Member

### **Departmental, College, and Campus Committee**

Chair, Public Management Group (2018 - present)  
 Chair, NOSY Committee (2022)  
 Member, Welcome Week Memo Writing Committee (2019- present)  
 Summer Faculty Retreat Facilitator (2019)  
 Best Dissertation Committee (2019)  
 Faculty Literature Review Planning Committee (2019)  
 Rockefeller College Grievance Committee (2019)  
 Member, Governance Committee, Faculty Senate (2019)  
 Member, Faculty Senate Survey Subcommittee (2019)  
 Member, Mentoring Committee for Hongseok Lee (2018- present)  
 Member, Mentoring Committee for Susan Appe (2018-19)  
 Chair, NOSY Committee (2018)  
 Member, University Senate (2018-2019)  
 Graduate Student Teaching Award Committee (2018)  
 Best Candidacy Paper Award Committee (2018)  
 Co-Facilitator, Strategic Leadership Institute (2018)  
 Chair, Best Dissertation Committee (2017)  
 Chair, Promotion Committee for Karl Rethemeyer  
 Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee for Jennifer Dodge  
 Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Review (2009 – 2010)  
 Mentoring and Review Committee for Erzsebet Fazekas (2009)  
 Chair, Faculty Search in Public Governance (2008)  
 Faculty Search Steering Committee – 2007-2008  
 Facilitation Committee, Faculty Retreat (2007)  
 Mentoring Committee for Alethia Jones (2006 - 7)  
 Chair, Academic Standing and Retention Committee 2006-2007

Co-chair, Public Management Search (Department) 2006-2007  
 Search Committee, Department Secretary (Department) 2006  
 Saidel Promotion and Continuing Appointment Committee (Department) 2005-6  
 Assistant Dean Search Committee 2005 (Rockefeller College)  
 Appointment Renewal Committee for Professor Saidel 2005 (Department)  
 Lecturer, The Personal and the Professional, PAD 508 2000- 2006(Department)  
 Chair, Rockefeller College Faculty 2004-2005  
 Masters Program Admissions Committee 2005 (Department)  
 Chair, Academic Standing and Retention Committee 2003-4 (Department)  
 Chair, Organizational Behavior and Theory Concentration 2002- 2009 (Department)  
 Faculty Senate 1999- 2002 (University)  
 Council on Libraries, Information Science, and Computing 2001-2002 (University)  
 Search Committee in Public Management 2001- 2002 (Department)  
 Chair, Council on Academic Freedom and Ethics 2000-2001 (University)  
 Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate 2000-2001 (University)  
 Committee on Academic Standing and Retention 2000-2001 (PADP)  
 Hiring Committee, Graduate Admissions Officer (Rockefeller College) 2000  
 Rockefeller College (Second Level) Promotion Review Committee (1997-1998)  
 Policy Committee 1996-1998, 1999-2000 (PADP)  
 Graduate Academic Council Curriculum Committee 1994-1995 (University)  
 Chair, Committee on Academic Standing and Retention 1993-1995 (PADP)  
 Chair, Higgins Lecture Committee (Organizational Studies)  
 Macro Comprehensive Exam Committee 1992-1998 (Organizational Studies)  
 Ad Hoc Retreat Committees 1992, 1993 (PADP)  
 Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations 1995 (PADP)  
 Public Management Curriculum Committee  
 Leadership Committee 1991 (PADP)  
 MPA Socialization Committee 1991 (PADP)  
 Professionalization Workshops 1992 (PADP)  
 Department Committee on Chair Selection 1995 (PADP)

### **Professional Association Committees/ Editorial Boards**

International Advisory Board, Journal of Cultural Economy(2007 - )  
 Member, Editorial Board, SUNY Press (2006-2009)  
 Chair, Nominations, Economic Sociology Division, American Sociological Association  
 (2005)  
 International Advisory Board, Financial Studies Review  
 Elected Member, Council, Section on Economic Sociology, American Sociological  
 Association (2002-2005)  
 Distinguished Book Award Committee, Economic Sociology, American Sociological  
 Association (2003)  
 Chair, Best Dissertation Award Committee of the Public and Nonprofit Division of the  
 Academy of Management (2001)  
 Committee on Nominations, Economic Sociology Division, American Sociological  
 Association (2001)  
 Max Weber Award Committee, Organizations and Occupations Division of the  
 American Sociological Association (1999-2000)

Executive Committee, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (1996-1999)

### **External Reviewer**

Administrative Science Quarterly, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Organization Science, Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Sociological Forum, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, International Journal of Public Management, National Science Foundation Regulation and Policy Analysis Program, National Science Foundation Sociology Program, Organization and Management Theory Division of the Academy of Management, Public and Non-Profit Sector Division of the Academy of Management,

### **Professional Affiliations**

Academy of Management

Organization and Management Theory Division,  
Public and Nonprofit Sector Division

American Sociological Association

Section on Economic Sociology  
Organizations, Occupations, and Work

Public Management Research Association

Registered Representative (broker's license), all U.S. Commodity Exchanges

