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INCOMPLETE STREETS

PROCESSES, PRACTICES, AND POSSIBILITIES



Edited by
STEPHEN ZAVESTOSKI
and **JULIAN AGYEMAN**



ROUTLEDGE EQUITY, JUSTICE, AND THE SUSTAINABLE CITY SERIES

INCOMPLETE STREETS

The "Complete Streets" concept and movement in urban planning and policy has been hailed by many as a revolution that aims to challenge the auto-normative paradigm by reversing the broader effects of an urban form shaped by the logic of keeping automobiles moving. By enabling safe access for all users, Complete Streets promise to make cities more walkable and livable and at the same time more sustainable.

Incomplete Streets problematizes the Complete Streets concept by suggesting that streets should not be thought of as merely physical spaces, but as symbolic and social spaces. When important social and symbolic narratives are missing from the discourse and practice of Complete Streets, what actually results are incomplete streets. This volume questions whether the ways in which Complete Streets narratives, policies, plans, and efforts are envisioned and implemented might be systematically reproducing many of the urban spatial and social inequalities and injustices that have characterized cities for the last century or more. From critiques of a "mobility bias" rooted in the neoliberal foundations of the Complete Streets concept, to concerns about resulting environmental gentrification, the chapters in *Incomplete Streets* variously call for planning processes that give voice to the historically marginalized and, more broadly, approach streets as dynamic, fluid, and public social places.

This interdisciplinary book is aimed at students, researchers, and professionals in the fields of urban geography, environmental studies, urban planning and policy, transportation planning, and urban sociology.

Stephen Zavestoski is Sustainability Director at the College of Arts and Sciences and Co-Chair of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of San Francisco, USA.

Julian Agyeman is a Professor in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University, USA. He is Founding Editor of *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, published by Taylor & Francis.

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*Edited by Stephen Zavestoski
and Julian Agyeman*

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"The 'Complete Streets' approach seems to be a feasible way to improve access, health, and economic activity. But are we really challenging inequality and inequity by designing and building 'Complete Streets'? This edited volume is thought provoking, and a good way to start the conversation about this urgent question."

—Lois M. Takahashi, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

"*Incomplete Streets* asks important questions about how equitable Complete Streets really are. While seemingly benign, authors in this well-edited collection argue that this vision of street design ignores key street users from sidewalk vendors to low-wage auto commuters. This is a timely critique that deserves attention."

—Ann Forsyth, Harvard University, USA

"Over the last 30 years our urban spaces have become increasingly neo-liberalised commodities and privatised public places. This timely collection reveals the contested space tensions and the successes that can be achieved in local streets."

—Mark Tewdwr-Jones, Newcastle University, UK

"This important book takes a hard look at the emerging movement for livability and asks the essential question: For whom? The authors' unflinching, good humoured perspectives are essential reading for anyone who cares about the shape of our cities."

—Elly Blue, Bikenomics Industrial Complex, USA

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