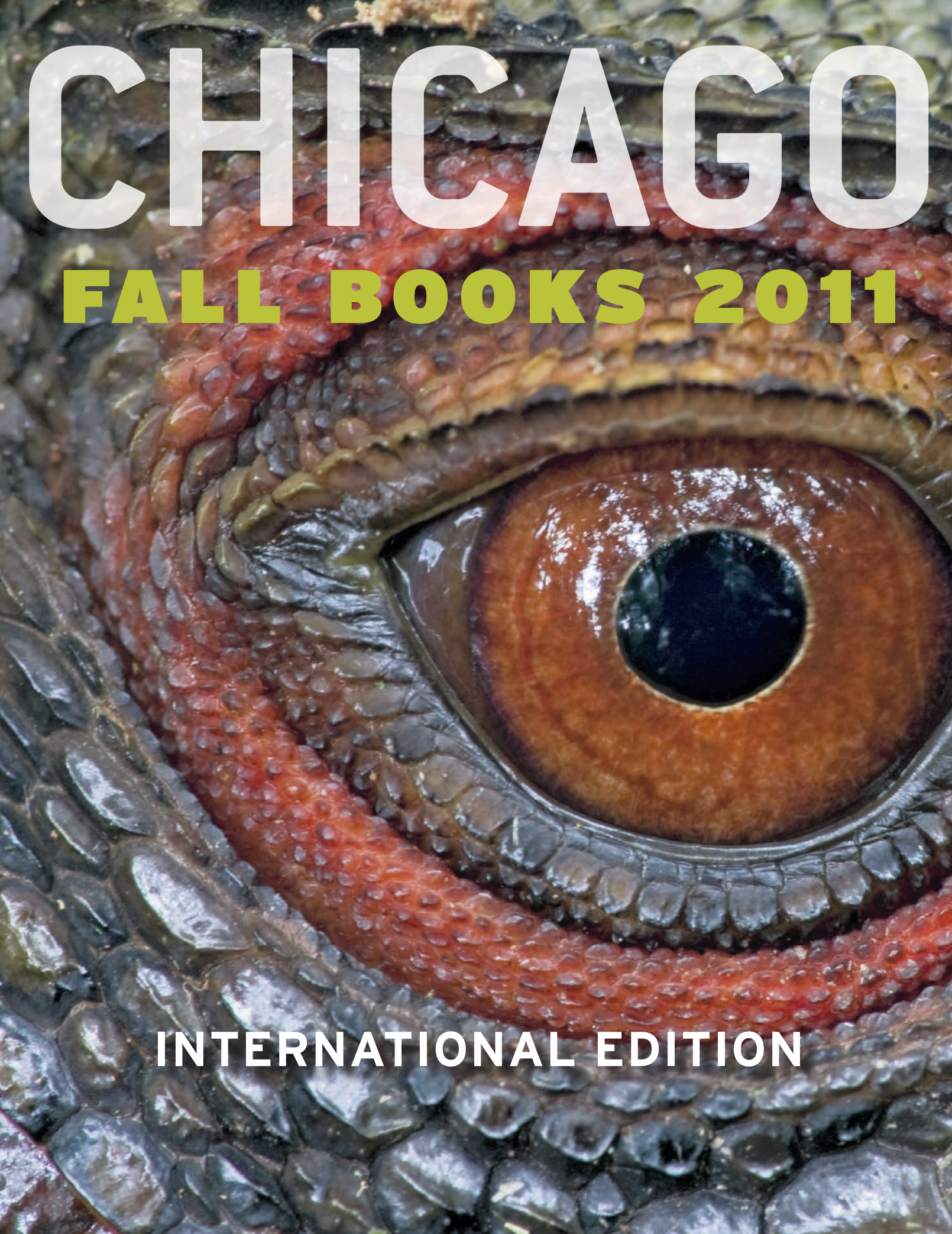




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INTERNATIONAL EDITION

ROBERT J. SAMPSON

Great American City

Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect

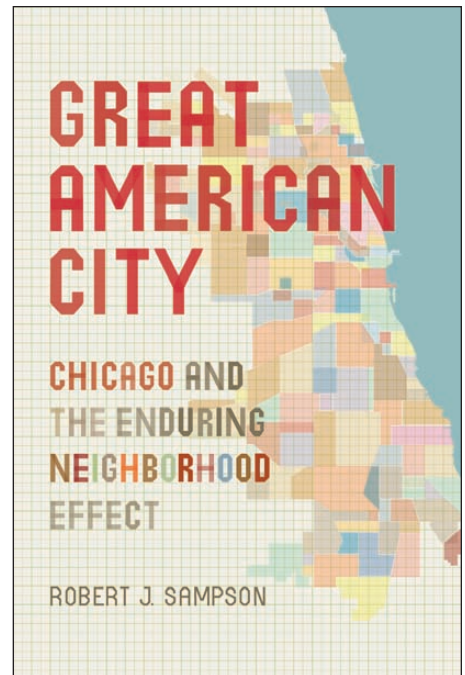
With a Foreword by William Julius Wilson

For over fifty years numerous public intellectuals and social theorists have insisted that community is dead. Some would have us believe that we act solely as individuals choosing our own fates regardless of our surroundings, while other theories place us at the mercy of global forces beyond our control. These two perspectives dominate contemporary views of society, but by rejecting the importance of place they are both deeply flawed. Based on one of the most ambitious studies in the history of social science, *Great American City* argues that communities still matter because life is decisively shaped by where you live.

To demonstrate the powerfully enduring impact of place, Robert J. Sampson presents here the fruits of over a decade's research in Chicago combined with his own unique personal observations about life in the city, from Cabrini Green to Trump Tower, and Millennium Park to the Robert Taylor Homes. He discovers that neighborhoods influence a remarkably wide variety of social phenomena, including crime, health, civic engagement, home foreclosures, teen births, altruism, leadership networks, and immigration. Even national crises cannot weaken the power of place, Sampson finds, as he analyzes the consequences of the Great Recession and its aftermath, bringing his magisterial study up to the fall of 2010.

Following in the influential tradition of the Chicago School of urban studies but updated for the twenty-first century, *Great American City* is at once a landmark research project, a commanding argument for a new theory of social life, and the story of an iconic city.

Robert J. Sampson is the Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University and coauthor of *Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points through Life* and *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70*.



“*Great American City* will not only change the way we think about neighborhood effects, it also sets a new standard for social scientific inquiry. Indeed, in my judgment, this is one of the most comprehensive and sophisticated empirical studies ever conducted by a social scientist. The scope of this very readable and precisely worded book boggles the mind.”

**—William Julius Wilson,
from the Foreword**

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