

Artificial ice: hockey, culture, and commerce, ed. by David Whitson and Richard Gruneau. Broadview/Garamond Press, 2006. 283p bibl index ISBN 1551930552 pbk, \$24.95 Whitson (political science, Univ. of Alberta) and Gruneau (communication, Simon Fraser Univ.) begin this book with an informative, thoughtful introduction and historical overview, then offer a dozen stand-alone chapters by scholars (mostly Canadian) in sociology, physical education, communication, and related fields. This is first and foremost a book about hockey and its place in the life and culture of Canada, as evidenced by part 1, "Hockey in Contemporary Canadian Culture." Here, individual essays touch on French-English divisions in the nation; hockey and Canadian youth; hockey for women and young girls; and, finally, race. Part 2--"The Political Economy of Hockey"--moves to a broad set of economic issues that plague all modern sports: large versus small markets; television and other media; the role that publicly financed arenas play in politics and urban development. Three of these chapters deal with hockey beyond Canada--the expansion of the NHL into the US and the internationalization/globalization of hockey in particular and sports in general. Though perhaps more interesting to readers who know the words to "O Canada," this well-referenced volume is a welcome addition to a literature written almost exclusively by US scholars and journalists and focusing almost entirely on baseball, football, and basketball. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers. -- A. R. Sanderson, University of Chicago