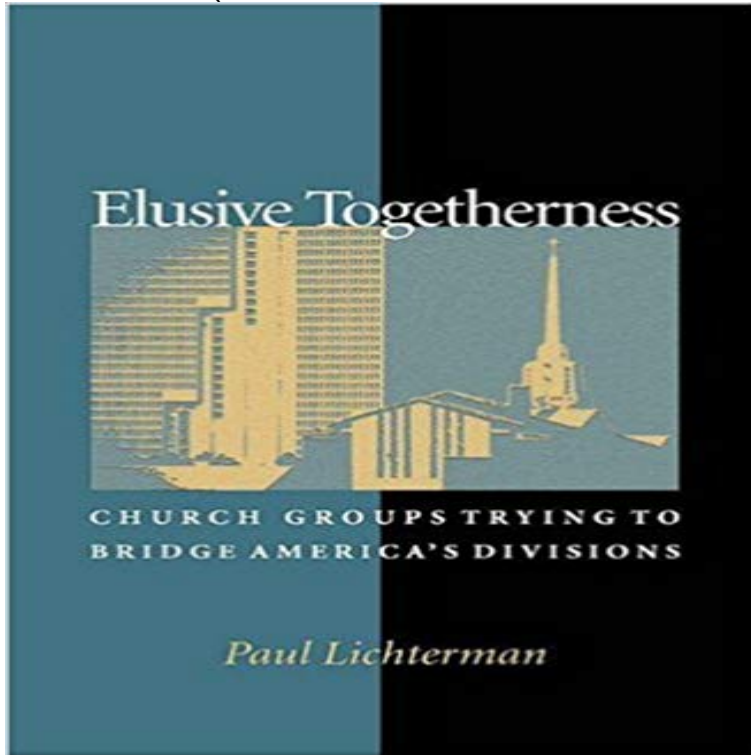


## Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas Divisions (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology)



Many scholars and citizens alike have counted on civic groups to create broad ties that bind society. Some hope that faith-based civic groups will spread their reach as government retreats. Yet few studies ask how, if at all, civic groups reach out to their wider community. Can religious groups--long central in civic America--create broad, empowering social ties in an unequal, diverse society? Over three years, Paul Lichterman studied nine liberal and conservative Protestant-based volunteering and advocacy projects in a mid-sized American city. He listened as these groups tried to create bridges with other community groups, social service agencies, and low-income people, just as the 1996 welfare reforms were taking effect. Counter to long-standing arguments, Lichterman discovered that powerful customs of interaction inside the groups often stunted external ties and even shaped religions impact on the groups. Comparing groups, he found that successful bridges outward depend on group customs which invite reflective, critical discussion about a groups place amid surrounding groups and institutions. Combining insights from Alexis de Tocqueville, John Dewey, and Jane Addams with contemporary sociology, *Elusive Togetherness* addresses enduring questions about civic and religious life that elude the popular social capital concept. To create broad civic relationships, groups need more than the right religious values, political beliefs, or resources. They must learn new ways of being groups.

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**Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas** 2016 Clifford Geertz Award, American Sociological Association 2001-02 Fellowship, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge. Americas Divisions. .. Lecture at Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Universitat Erfurt, Germany, **Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas** Series: Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology Paul Lichterman, author of Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas Divisions. **Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas** Find great deals for Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas Divisions by Paul Lichterman (Paperback, 2005). Shop with confidence on **Download Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge** Buy Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas Divisions (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology) by Paul Lichterman (ISBN: **Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas** Jul 25, 2005 Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas Divisions. Front Cover . Divisions Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology. **Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas** Results 1 - 10 of 17 Elusive Togetherness. Church Groups Trying to Bridge Americas Divisions. Paul Lichterman. 7. Save Citation.

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