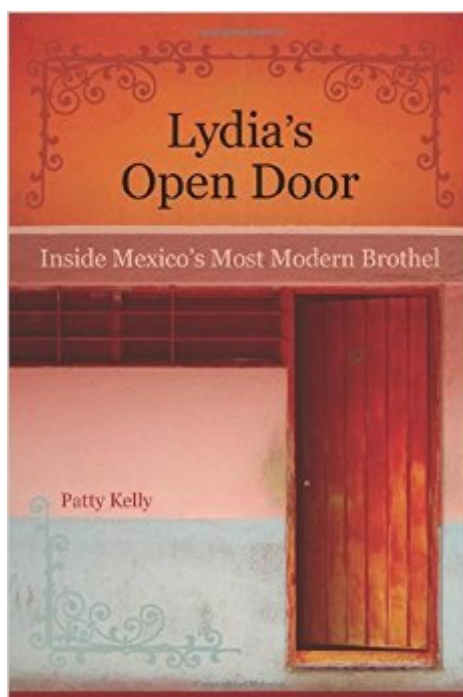


The book was found

# Lydia's Open Door: Inside Mexico's Most Modern Brothel



## Synopsis

In this groundbreaking ethnographic study, Patty Kelly examines the lives of the women who work in the Zona Galactica, a state-run brothel in Chiapas's capital city. By delving into lives that would otherwise go unremarked, Kelly documents the modernization of the sex industry during the neoliberal era in the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez and illustrates how state-regulated sex became part of a broader effort by government officials to bring modernity to Chiapas, one of Mexico's poorest and most conflicted states. Kelly's innovative approach locates prostitution in a political-economic context by treating it as work. Most valuably, she conveys her analysis through vivid portraits of the lives of the sex workers themselves and shows how the women involved are neither victims nor heroines.

## Book Information

Paperback: 296 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition (April 2, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520255364

ISBN-13: 978-0520255364

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #504,592 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #388 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Latin America](#) #419 in [Books > History > Americas > Mexico](#) #888 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Sexuality](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is a very solid contribution to the scholarly research on prostitution. It documents a dismal scene that most would ignore, or not even see (due to physical isolation), which is explored within the historical, social, regional, sexual, and economic contexts that define that part of Mexico which is best known for creating revolutionaries. Written by a feminist anthropologist, it is also a grounded, scathing, critique of neoliberal thought. If you are a sociologist or a deviance researcher, and enjoy well written, scrupulously documented, ethnographic work, you are also in for an unexpected surprise as Kelly also makes a seminal contribution to the social control literature. If you are not an anthropologist, you will find flaws stemming from differences unique to your discipline's methodological canon, descriptive conventions, and favored analytical styles. If you feel

uncomfortable with feminist and gender driven theorists you will not be pleased. If the "French Follies" do not provide your favored theorists, you will moan a bit. If you are a social science researcher, however, whether you confront it, enjoy it, criticize it, or moan a bit because Kelly's perspective is not yours, or if you ultimately incorporate the findings into your own work, you will agree that time spent reading this book has been time well spent. This research is simply too important to ignore and too compelling to not attract interest in many fields. A masterful job.

Prostitution is already a pretty controversial topic in and of itself, but add in the politics neoliberalism along with the idea of a state controlled brothel and prostitution becomes an interesting web of societal issues. In Lydia's *Open Door - Inside Mexico's Most Modern Brothel*, author Patty Kelly details her anthropological study of "legalized" prostitution in Tuxtla Gutiérrez the capital of Chiapas, Mexico. Avoiding the cold detachment of a social scientist, Kelly dives into her exploration of Zona Galactica, a state-sponsored brothel, with an emotional zeal that creates a captivating narrative. While, *Open Door* focuses largely on the activity that takes place behind the Zona Galactica (as well as the underlying social factors that force it behind those gates), Kelly takes a holistic look at prostitution, the women of Zona Galactica, the reasons for their role as sex workers, their family life, and the politics of prostitution. The vividness of Kelly's account, which could only be provided by her willingness to maintain close proximity to the workers of Zona Galactica, provides a level of understanding that may not otherwise be available. I was struck by Kelly's willingness to immerse herself in her work and to understand the nature of sex work not only on a societal or institutional level, but on a personal level. By bringing both the mechanics of prostitution and the personalities of those involved to the table, she provides the background necessary to open up a meaningful discourse about the issues looming in the air regarding sex work. While *Open Door* focuses on the forces that create and maintain prostitution in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, its applicability is much wider as it provides a comprehensive examination into sex work. I would recommend this book to any aspiring social scientist or anyone looking to better understand the dynamics of sex work.

I bought this as research material for a book I'm writing. The factual background is helpful but oftentimes the author gets too bogged down trying to make her socio-political arguments. It would've been a much better read without all of that mess thrown in. Still, interesting information about a topic that doesn't receive much attention.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Lydia's Open Door: Inside Mexico's Most Modern Brothel Surgery Open Heart: A Surgical Nurse Guides You Through Open Heart Surgery (Open Heart Surgery, Aortic Valve / Mitral Valve Replacement, Coronary Artery Bypass, Aortic Aneurysm, Myxoma) Build Your Own Secret Bookcase Door: Complete guide with plans for building a secret hidden bookcase door. (Home Security Series) A Door Set Open: Grounding Change in Mission and Hope This Is Awkward: How Life's Uncomfortable Moments Open the Door to Intimacy and Connection A Small Key Can Open a Large Door Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self Mexico The Beautiful Cookbook: Authentic Recipes from the Regions of Mexico Best Plants for New Mexico Gardens and Landscapes: Keyed to Cities and Regions in New Mexico and Adjacent Areas, Revised and Expanded Edition Best Plants for New Mexico Gardens and Landscapes: Keyed to Cities and Regions in New Mexico and Adjacent Areas Best of the Best from New Mexico Cookbook: Selected Recipes from New Mexico's Favorite Cookbooks (Best of the Best Cookbook) Historia Antigua De Mexico Y De Su Conquista: Ilustrada Con Disertaciones Sobre La Tierra, Los Animales Y Los Habitantes De Mexico, Volumes 1-2 (Spanish Edition) The Labyrinth of Solitude: The Other Mexico, Return to the Labyrinth of Solitude, Mexico and the United States, the Philanthropic Ogre Casa mexicana/ Mexican House: La Arquitectura, El Diseno Y El Estilo De Mexico/ the Architecture, Design, and Style of Mexico (Spanish Edition) Arboles de Mexico / Trees of Mexico (Spanish Edition) Artes de Mexico # 27. El tequila, arte tradicional de Mexico / Tequila. A Traditional Mexican Art Cartucho. Relatos de la lucha en el norte de Mexico. / Cartridge: Tales of the fight in Northern Mexico (Biblioteca Era) (Spanish Edition) La formacion del poder politico en Mexico (Problemas De Mexico) (Spanish Edition) Insectos Forestales de Mexico/Forest Insects of Mexico (Spanish and English Edition) Numeros que mueven al mundo/ Numbers that Move the World: La medicion de la pobreza en Mexico/ The Measure of Poverty in Mexico (Spanish Edition)

[Dmca](#)