

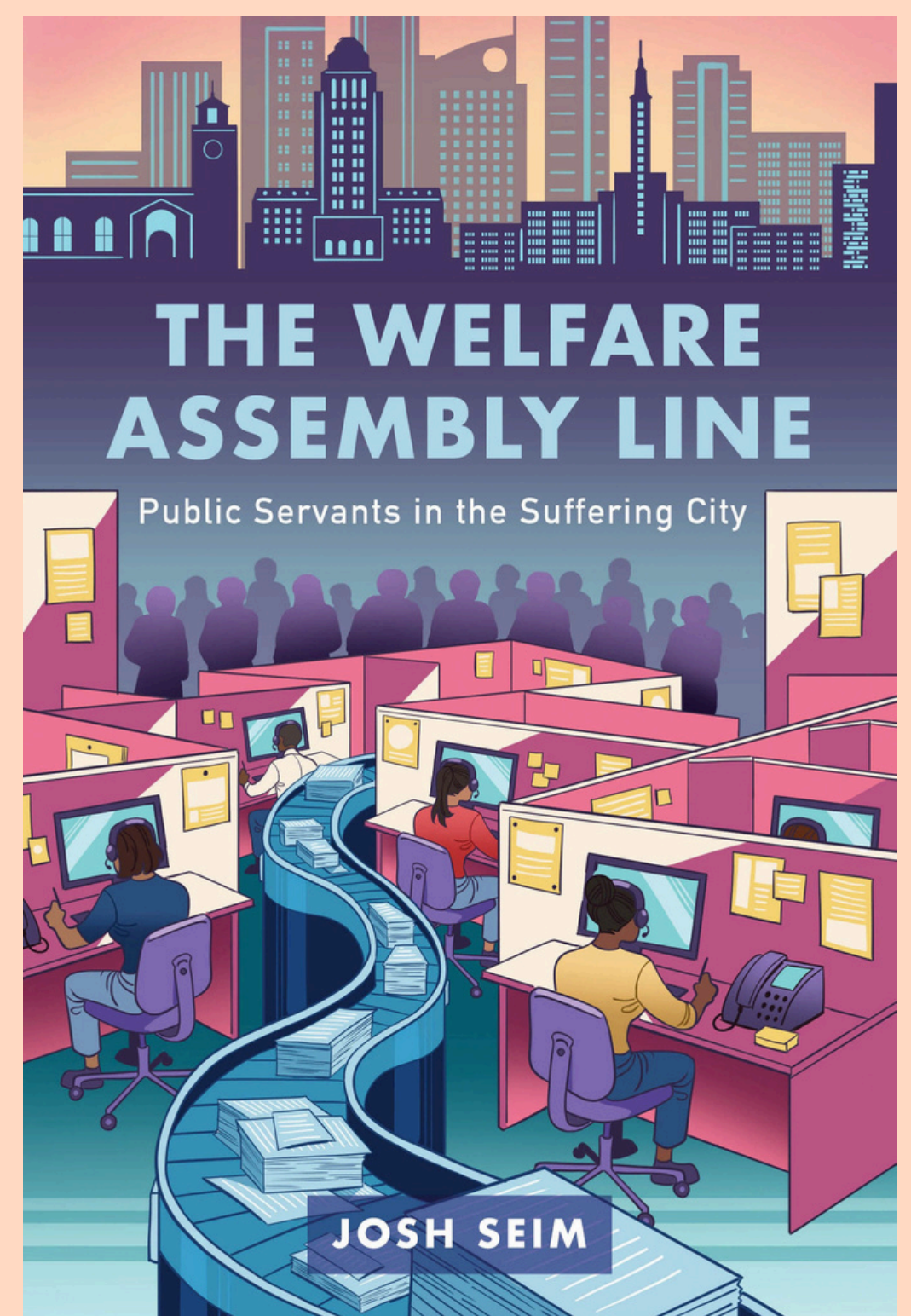
THE WELFARE ASSEMBLY LINE

Public Servants in the Suffering City

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Despite claims that we live in a “post-welfare society,” welfare offices remain vital not only for those who depend on them for benefits but also those who depend on them for a paycheck. This case study of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services examines how welfare work has transformed. Seim argues that frontline workers at this agency, who are mostly Black and Brown women, have become increasingly proletarianized. This is enabled by a “welfare assembly line,” where high divisions of labor and heavy uses of machinery resemble production regimes in factories and fast-food restaurants.



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