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For the past decade, political scientist Sanford Schram has led the

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academic effort to understand how Americans and their political officials talk about poverty and welfare and what impact that discourse has on policy and on the global society. In Welfare Discipline, Schram argues that it is time to take stock of the new forms of welfare and to develop even better methods to understand them. He argues for a more contextualized approach to examining welfare policy, from the use of the idea of globalization to justify cutbacks, to the increasing employment of U.S. policy disc