
Book reviews

Book review policy

The policy of *Social Work Review* is to offer books for review to ANZASW members in the first instance. New reviewers are welcome and any member who would like to be added to the list is invited to write (preferably by e-mail) or telephone the Book Review Editor. It is most helpful to the Editor if you are able to identify specific titles from those offered below that match your area of interest. If you wish to discuss any of the books, or want to make a more general inquiry about book reviewing you are most welcome to make contact. Once a review is completed, the book becomes the property of the reviewer.

Publications available for review

- Batsleer, J. (2013). *Youth working with girls and women in community settings – A feminist perspective*. Ashgate: London.
- Beddoe, E. & Maidment, J. (2014). (Eds.) *Social work practice for promoting health and well-being- Critical issues*. New York: Routledge.
- Beresford, P., & Carr, S. (2012). (Eds.). *Social care, service users and user involvement*. Jessica Kingsley: London.
- Bottrell, D. & Goodwin, S. (2011). (Eds.). *Schools, communities and social inclusion*. South Yarra: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Dunk-West, P. & Verity, F. (2014). *Sociological social work*. Surrey: Ashgate.
- Dwyer, J., Liang, Z., Theissen, V. & Martini, A. (2013). *Project management in health and community services – Getting good ideas to work* [2nd ed.]. Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest NSW.
- English, A., Selby, R., & Bell, H. (2011). *Working with whanau: Maori social work in schools*. Massey University: Palmerston North.
- Gursansky, D., Kennedy, R. & Camilleri, P. (2012). *The practice of case management*. Allen and Unwin: Crows Nest NSW.
- Humphrey, C. (2011). *Becoming a social worker: A guide for students*. Sage: London.
- James, A.M. (2009). *Brothers and sisters in adoption: Helping children navigate relationships when new kids join the family*. Perspectives Press: Indianapolis.
- Laing, L. & Humphreys, C. (2013). *Social work and domestic violence – Developing critical and reflective practice*. Sage: London.
- Mainstone, F. (2014). *Mastering whole family assessment in social work*. London: JKP.
- Matthies, A-L. & Uggerhøj, L. (2014), (Eds.) *Participation, marginalization and welfare services-concepts, politics and practices across European countries*. England: Ashgate.
- Morrell, M. (2013). *You deserve good supervision: A guide for supervisees*. Margaret Morrell and Assocs: South Australia.
- Murphy, J., Murray, S., Chalmers, J., Martin, S., & Marston, G. (2011). *Half a citizen-life on welfare in Australia*. Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest NSW.
- Sapin, K. (2013). *Essential skills for youth work practice* (2nd Edn.). Sage: London.
- Selby, R., English, A., & Bell, H. (2011). *Social Worker in Schools: A New Zealand Maori Experience*. Massey University: Palmerston North.
- Steinberg, G., & Hall, B. (2000). *Inside transracial adoption*. Perspectives Press: Indianapolis.
- Tawhai, V.M.H., & Gray-Sharp, K. (Eds.) (2011). *'Always speaking' - The Treaty of Waitangi and public policy*. Huia: Wellington.

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- Taylor, A. & Connolly, M. (2013). (Eds.) *Understanding violence- context and practice in the human services*. Christchurch, New Zealand: Canterbury University Press.
- Tomlins-Jahnke, H., & Mulholland, M. (Eds.) (2011). *Mana tangata politics of empowerment*. Huia: Wellington.
- Wadsworth, Y. (2010). *Building in research and evaluation. Human inquiry for living systems*. Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest NSW.
- Williams, L., Roberts, R. & McIntosh, A. (2012). (Eds.). *Radical human ecology – intercultural and indigenous approaches*. Surrey: Ashgate.

eBooks also available for review

Margaret, J. (2013). *Working as allies: Supporters of indigenous justice reflect*. Awea Publications: New Zealand.

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Elizabeth DePoy & Stephen French Gilson. 2011. *Studying disability: Multiple theories and responses*. Thousand Oaks, California. Sage Publications. Paperback, 246 pages.

The main intention of the authors is to develop a framework labelled 'Explanatory Legitimacy Theory'. This framework contains three elements of description (what is considered atypical), explanation (why something is considered atypical) and legitimation (what judgements are made to support something as being framed as atypical). In the development of their prime thesis they review, albeit not in great depth, multiple theories from disability studies and from a variety of disciplines that operate within what they call the 'disability park'. I attempted to develop a graphic of explanatory legitimacy theory as it developed with limited success.

This book contains some interesting sections such as documentation of how civilisations through time have responded to 'atypical' human beings with a focus on the 20th and 21st centuries in order to lay the foundations to build towards Explanatory Legitimacy Theory. The complexity of this is exacerbated by the notion that singular perspectives can be adopted into their framework and that this pluralism is in keeping with a postmodern perspective. There is limited discussion of the social model of disability and other theories are discussed only to the extent that they could add to their framework.

It requires a sophisticated theoretical understanding of the 'disability' terrain. Overall the book required dogged determination to finish, the language is quite dense and I recommend

ready access to a dictionary. However some interesting points were made and the reviewer was left with some things to consider. They discuss how medicalisation has captured the disability park and make interesting suggestions such as the market may be able to offer solutions to body-environment disjuncture or disablement.

Relevance to social work in Aotearoa New Zealand

This book only has two pages (pp. 183-184) on the impact of social work in the ‘disability park’. They contend that in general where social workers are positioned they are complicit in the system of legitimacy which leads to applying a long-term, chronic diagnostic explanation and response in clinical encounters. They do suggest however the ‘mission’ of social work which should include a more holistic stance and the charge to eradicate social injustice could be a way forward to avoid the ‘clientizing’ that they consider currently occurs. The authors have a vision of community legitimacy where there is human-environment juncture (p. 203) for people that have atypical bodies which is predicated on human rights and social justice. They appear to offer a challenge to social work as their thesis is that when it comes to the ‘disability park’ social work has strayed from its own mission at least from what they see from their experience.

A more learned review written in Tom Campbell, University of Leeds is accessible on the web. I agree with Campbell (2011) this is a disability studies reader but I also add that a considerable depth of understanding of the field is required but even then it may be heavy going.

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References

Campbell, T. (2011). Book review. *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 31 (4). Retrieved on 31/03/2014, from <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/1699/1781>.
