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Each of the contributing articles present readable and satisfying studies or reflections on their stated topics. This ranges from siblings of children with disabilities, older gay people, looked-after children, families of people with problematic substance use and people with dementia and chronic illness. Some of the most interesting insights came from Liz Walker's essay on HIV / AIDS where she included descriptions of how workers also experience disadvantage by association. Here the workers, families, children and individuals living with HIV / AIDS in African countries all acknowledged the stigma of contagion and disease. This raises some intriguing questions about any social worker's experience of working with marginalised, vulnerable and stigmatised populations and how much we as workers either suffer from a parallel disadvantage or perpetuate disadvantage by association.

The success of an anthology often depends on the skill of the editors. In this case, the editors have used the introductory and final reflective chapters to draw together the disparate and sometimes disjointed individual chapters to very good effect. It is evident that some of the chapters, while excellent studies in themselves, are only tangentially related to the stated focus of stigma by association. As this is a relatively new area of research focus, it is hardly surprising that in many cases, the main focus remains on the disadvantage experienced by the person/s living with the stigmatising factor. The only sad thing is that this continues to marginalise the experience of stigma by association and in some places the reader was left to extrapolate the impact of association on family members, caregivers and friends because the main discussion remained about the stigma of the 'identified client'. As much as I experienced this as a setback to the overall aim of the anthology, there are also sufficient portable insights in the individual articles for the intelligent reader to be able to transfer to consideration of how the disadvantage affecting the 'identified client' might impact on those around them.

Overall this book stands as an important addition to knowledge and reflection on ethical social work practice. The collection provides a good balance between research evidence and theoretical reflection. It shows up spaces that will hopefully inspire future research and reflective work to articulate disadvantage by association in greater detail. It also raises the question about creating space for inclusion of the concepts of disadvantage and stigma by association in social work assessment and practice.

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