

Decent work, inclusion and sustainability

Book Review

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Editors: Deirdre Hughes and Maria Eduarda-Duarte

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Reviewed by **Anne Chant**, NICEC Fellow, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.

This timely and important book is an edited collection of chapters by authors from around the world. The book explores the needs of a wide range of people who have challenges emerging from socio-economic, environmental and political events and contexts since the Covid-19 pandemic and for whom the notion of decent work is in stark contrast to their circumstances. The book focusses on interventions, concepts, ideas and frameworks that promote a holistic approach to career counselling and a movement towards a sustainability of work within communities, with the principles of decent work at its heart.

Both of the editors of this book have international profiles as academics and researchers as well as a reputation for speaking to policy development around adult learners and lifelong career guidance. Associate Prof. Deidre Hughes (OBE) is vice-president of the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG). Emerita Professor Maria Eduarda-Duarte is from the University of Lisbon's Faculty of Psychology and is the former president of the UNESCO chair for Lifelong Learning Guidance and Counselling at the University of Wroclaw. Their profiles and reputations in the careers sector have contributed to bringing together such rich and wide-ranging chapters from other well known and distinguished contributors.

The book is organised into 13 chapters which collectively explore decent work, inclusion and sustainability in the context of guidance and counselling services from around the world; Brazil to Singapore, Canada to West Africa. The chapters are divided into two sections: part one considers different approaches and tools in practice, and part two focusses on the skills needed by practitioners to meet the needs of different client groups.

This book examines issues that touch the lives of people who do not benefit from globalisation, technological advancements, capitalism and economic growth. It thereby lies at the heart of the social justice remit for careers work and an important source of

information and illumination of these issues for policy makers, practitioners, educators and social scientists. Changes in the world of work, migration, poverty and the impact of technology on how and where we work, are examined critically. The introduction from the editors and the brief concluding section do not seek to provide trite answers to these issues but to highlight them and to stimulate further debate, discussion and awareness for the reader of the sustainability of work, of communities and of the environment.

The current cost of the book may be a barrier to an individual but not to institutions where it will be a significant source of information and understanding for careers and employability practitioners and tutors but also those interested in social justice, economies, politics and education.

