

example, in terms of the use of language and terms of reference. In alternating between 'human services management', 'social work and social care management', the book can, on occasions, also appear disjointed. Nonetheless, the use of 'casework examples' set against different organizational and legal structures is helpful and informative.

More generally, this collection is likely to be a useful tool for managers, practitioners and students in social care across the public, voluntary, and private sectors: helping them navigate their way through their ever-changing roles and responsibilities.

References

- Garrett, P. H. (2004) 'The electronic eye emerging surveillance practices in sound work with children and families', *European Journal of Social Work* 7(1): 57–71.

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□ The Price of Sex: Prostitution, Policy and Society

Belinda Brooks-Gordon

Cullompton, Willan Publishing, 2006, 292pp, ISBN-10: 1-843920-87-5, ISBN-13: 978-1-84392-087-8, £22.00 (pbk)

This excellent account of the sex working profession by Belinda Brooks-Gordon is centred around a fascinating piece of original research into kerb crawling within the territory of the Metropolitan Police Vice and Clubs Unit. It takes a balanced view of the circumstances and socio-economic factors which result in women (and to a lesser extent men) engaging in sex working, reminding us of the ever present risk of violence, poverty and risk to physical and mental health. At the same time it explores how liberal models of sex work management result in better conditions for sex workers and takes a stand against those whose ideologies preclude any dialogue with progressive voices.

Chapter One begins with an overview of the history and cultural paradigms of sex working and the progressive incursion of the legal system into the profession over the centuries. It reveals also the various discourses that have encroached upon the general public's understanding of sex work. Chapter Two then examines the law as it currently stands in the UK, a range of European countries, and the USA. Much of this chapter centres on the discussion of the government Green Paper *Paying the Price* (Home Office, 2004). Chapter Three deals with understanding sexual 'demand' and looks at the demographics of the range of clients in a number of sex working environments and various myths are dispelled: for example, Black clients are actually a minority (2 per cent). Chapter Four is concerned mostly with the police perspective on the sex work environment and the author concedes that she had been placed with a group of police officers who had attributes seemingly more akin to those of social workers. Here, I felt reading the accounts of police behaviour, comments and attitudes that these officers were unlikely to be representative of police officers, in general.

Chapter Five looks at violence, victimization and protection and explores the mixed messages and oppressive legal frameworks which force some sex workers into damaging lifestyles as a direct consequence of the absence of legal protection and, as a reader, I was left with the strong emotional response of anger at the betrayal of these women by policy makers. Chapter Six, on methods, motives and morality was a robust account of Brooks-Gordon's methods and theoretical frameworks (including feminist theories, grounded theory, object relations and discourse analysis). Although I was expecting this chapter to be rather 'dry', I was riveted by the fluid and accessible style of the writing. The self-reflection in this section also pre-empted possible criticisms of the book's perspective being slightly biased towards the police. The author candidly confides, for example, that she had 'sided' with the police perspective at various points in her project: she tells us she had 'forgotten her status' (p. 226) at one point, feeling at one with the police; also a police officer tells her: 'You look like one of us' (p. 220). Yet this was, perhaps, inescapable as the empirical research involved travelling with the police for most of the 300 hours of fieldwork, examining police records and conducting interviews with individual and groups of police officers.

The clients (with their stark and impersonal characterizations) and the sex workers (whose views are relayed to us mostly through the

voice of the author) tend to create a silhouette of their existence and this is in contrast to the descriptions of the police who seem much more rounded: Brooks-Gordon travels with them in their police vehicles, shares their food, their jokes etc. I would also have welcomed more about building rapport with a sex worker or even a client. Perhaps also, there might have been more about male sex workers and more qualitative evidence from both sex workers and their clients. This might have enabled readers to get a deeper understanding of their worlds.

This book will make those who position themselves within ultra-moralistic or dogmatic perspectives on this issue uncomfortable. Indeed, authors such as Julie Bindel might disagree strongly with the tone and stance taken by Belinda Brooks-Gordon. However, *The Price of Sex* provides a long needed counterbalance of liberal common sense by advocating managed sex work environments, sex worker unions and better legal protection for sex workers. Hopefully, those involved with the implementation of policy in this area will read this book, consider the author's recommendations and help reverse the current UK government's increasingly intolerant stance against sex workers.

Reference

Home Office (2004) *Paying the Price: A Consultation Paper on Prostitution*. London: Home Office Communications Directorate.

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□ *Creating Citizen-Consumers: Changing Publics and Changing Public Services*

J. Clarke, J. Newman, N. Smith, E. Vidler and L. Westmarland

SAGE, London, 2007, 183pp, ISBN 978-1-4129-2134-3, £21.99

Creating Citizen-Consumers: Changing Publics and Changing Public Services is divided into eight chapters and the 'critical question' that