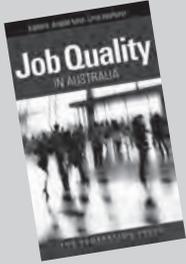


BOOK REVIEW: Job Quality in Australia

Reviewed by: Kendal Drew, PCDA, Private Practitioner

Book: JOB QUALITY IN AUSTRALIA
Editors: Angela Knox, Chris Warhurst
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Job Quality in Australia is a collection of essays discussing the topic of job quality from the perspective of a range of disciplines

including law and industrial relations, economics, sociology and psychology, gender and life course, health science and geography.

The book harnesses a depth of knowledge across all disciplines and is well researched and presented within each field of expertise.

As an historical representation of the current research, both nationally and internationally, *Job Quality in Australia* acts as a "one stop shop" in understanding job quality research up to the present time from each relevant perspective. The book is articulately presented and the information clearly accessible and very informative.

The editors argue that each of the above fields have researched the job quality from their own perspectives historically, and that much of this research has been conducted in international arenas of Europe and the United States. They argue that there is a need to coalesce the approach across the disciplines, and conduct further study which is specific to Australia, if we are to effectively engage the topic of job quality to shape a robust evidence base to ensure good jobs into the future and benefit workers, companies and governments (p. 181).

There is a demonstrated willingness from all contributors to develop a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional approach to understanding and identifying what makes a "good job", who is responsible for ensuring these jobs are increased, where the "good jobs" and "bad jobs" exist and which jobs require intervention. While there is some demonstration of cross-disciplinary research, *Job Quality in Australia* is a foundation work, identifying the challenges and setting the scaffold for

further research and discussion.

There is much offered in the book to support career practitioners in understanding the complexities which feed into job quality and impact on choices and opportunities in the current job market from a range of different perspectives. I would recommend the work as a valuable foundation in understanding the Job Market in Australia and what influences feed into government policy, company approaches and different considerations factoring into an individual's experience of job quality.

This information can enable us to support our clients, as individuals, drawing from the research as relevant to each client's own requirements and needs. For those working with policy-makers within government, business and community organisations, this work raises important issues and provides a strong evidence base for current research and is a thorough, concise handbook of the factors involved in evaluating and discussing Job Quality in Australia.