Negotiating Neoliberalism

Developing Alternative Educational Visions

Tim Rudd

AT THIS PART AND A DAY

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Following the financial crises in 2007, we have seen the intensification of neoliberal policies in education, with radical and potentially irrevocable shifts in the educational landscape, promoted under the auspices of 'austerity'. This book highlights the central features of neoliberal education policies, their origins, recent developments and also their inherent weaknesses and flaws. It provides insights into the day to day realities and negative impacts of recent policies on the professional practice and work of educators, demonstrating how the changing conditions have led to de-professionalisation, alienation and a loss of professional autonomy and identity. The book also provides a set of accounts that detail the new realities emerging as a result of 'austerity' policies and questions the degree to which austerity has actually been developed as an ideological 'cover story' for the further monetisation and privatisation of public services.

The various chapters challenge the common assumption that the neoliberal project is a monolithic orthodoxy by highlighting its complexities, variations and contradictions in the ways policies are refracted through action and practice in different contexts. The book also challenges the common assumption that there are no viable alternatives to neoliberal education policies, and does so by presenting a range of different examples, theoretical perspectives, discourses and alternative practices. It is argued that such alternatives not only highlight the range of different approaches, choices and possibilities but also provide the seedbed for a reimagined educational future.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

- 1. Negotiating Neoliberal Education: A Positional Issue and an Oppositional Stance *Tim Rudd and Ivor F. Goodson*
- 2. Here, There and Everywhere: Measurement, Assessment and Attainment *Mike Hayler*
- 3. Against Academic Labour and the Dehumanisation of Educational Possibility *Richard Hall*
- 4. Neoliberal Schooling, Dehumanisation and an Education *Peter Humphreys*
- 5. Neoliberalism and the Value of Higher Education *Yvonne Downs*
- 6. Beyond 'Entrepreneurialism of the Self': What It Means to be a Student in the Neoliberal University Nadia Edmond
- 7. Refractions of the Global Educational Agenda: Educational Possibilities in an Ambiguous Policy Terrain Ingunn Elisabeth Stray and Helen Eikeland Voreland

- 8. Education Free for All: Outsourcing, Contracts and Conflicts of Interest in the UK Deborah Philips
- 9. Co-operative Education, Neoliberalism and Historical Perspectives: The Dilemmas of Building Alternatives *Tom Woodin*
- 10. Co-operative Education Against Neoliberalism John Schostak
- 11. Resisting Neoliberal Education: For Freedom's Sake Stephen O'Brien
- 12. There Is An-(No)-Other Way: Surfacing the Hidden Injuries of 'Austerity' – Resistance, Resilience and Professional Responsibility: The Irish Case *Ciaran Sugrue*
- 13. The Limits of Neoliberal Education: Refraction, Reinterpretation and Reimagination *Ivor F. Goodson and Tim Rudd*

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Index

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