

Book review

Trowler, P. (2008) *Cultures and change in higher education: Theories and practice*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Dave Skingsley

Staffordshire University

Corresponding author: D.R.Skingsley@staffs.ac.uk

Having started reading this book in a traditional way (start at chapter 1 and carry on) it soon became clear to this reader that this was the sort of book where the chapters are the strength and that you should dip in and out of the book chapters dependent on your interests. What I also missed on first reading was the 'fun' that I subsequently found inherent in the quotes that start each chapter

In total there are 7 chapters to dip into but the one that I keep returning to is chapter 4 'Teaching and Learning themes deconstructed'. This also happens to be the largest chapter in the book at 53 pages. The ideas placed in front of you relate to '8 moments' as part of the Authors approach to considering the overlap of ideas and themes where considering one on its own often misses the influence of other ideas and themes. There is a vignette on page 93 that provides a warning to all new ventures on the 'conventions of appropriateness' such that to remain unique is not as easy as it first appears. Perhaps some of us working on new teaching and learning ideas could heed this draw to convention that can ensue.

Another area worth a revisit is Chapter 6 'Enhancing teaching and learning'. Of the many interesting threads the section on 'How to fail?' (page 150) is a twist on books in this area and was something that I rather enjoyed thinking about. I hope it would do the same for you as well.

My overall feeling was that if you are not from a sociocultural studies background then some of the material might be outside your comfort zone and as such this may not be a book for the uninitiated. To help this the chapters contained varying numbers of Vignette with Commentary sections. These are deployed to good effect and help define the concepts being discussed.

This book should be a good reference for the Change Culture concepts.