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Book Reviews

Forensic Social Work: Legal Aspects of Professional Practice, Robert L Barker and Douglas M Branson, The Haworth Press, New York, 1993, ISBN: 1-56024-351-1 (h/b); ISBN: 1-56024-352-X (p/b), 139 pp inc index, Price: \$26,95 (h/b); \$19,95 (p/b).

With the democratisation process currently developing all over the world and more recently also in Southern Africa, Mozambique being an excellent current example, we cannot help being amazed at the varied complexity and diversity of the created order. The attempts of governments to unite their people in Governments of National Unity is not just a faddish attempt to respond to the ecological, economic, social and political holocaust that threatens to engulf humankind. Social work at its core attempts to deal with the social problems of humankind and in the struggle we find competing responsibilities that all demand our attention. The problem is more acute for those who sincerely want to do what is right.

One of the competing responsibilities we as social workers encounter is our legal responsibility towards our clients and our organisations. This is what Barker and Branson (1993) write about. For social workers to effectively do their work, they will need to know more about the legal system of their specific countries. Even though the authors wrote the book for the American legal system it will not be difficult to customise the guidelines the book proposes to any local legal system.

It is of the utmost necessity that social workers know and understand their country's legal system, the general procedures and the roles of the various persons involved. *"This knowledge should be based on serious study rather than watching television courtroom dramas..."* Barker and Branson (1993:10). It is necessary for social workers and other professionals in the helping profession to know what is admissible as evidence in a court of law. Workers must know what information to obtain, legally and ethically. In doing this workers can ensure that their testimony in court will be effective and to the benefit of society as a whole.

Other issues Barker and Branson (1993) describe are that a social worker should take cognisance of aspects concerning malpractice, ethics, legal and professional credentials, adjudication processes and procedures, and preparing for litigation. It is a great danger for social workers to assume that social work can function independently of the law. We have to view the work of the social worker within the landscape of the whole. It is then that one gain balance and perspective.

The book is stimulating to read, the contents understandable and easy to follow. It will be a useful book for academics and students in social work. The book is a must for practitioners in the field because of the fact that forensic social work is a new professional speciality.

Reviewed by J P H Kasselmann, Career Planning, South African Police, Pretoria, South Africa.

Sex and Gender Hierarchies, Barbara Diane Miller (ed), Cambridge University Press, 1993, ISBN: 0-521-42368-6 (p/b), 401 pp inc index, Price: £40.

This collection of works from anthropologists makes a statement "against absolutes, biological determinism, and eternal inequalities in our lives" (p22) by examining different forms of sex and gender hierarchies in human and non-human primate societies. Anthropologists have historically searched for "cultural universals" but according to the contributors to this volume, apart from the biological facts of genitals and chromosomes, sex and gender hierarchical universals appear not to exist.

There has been a movement over the last 20 years or so in anthropology to study women. As in many other social science disciplines anthropology has traditionally been male-oriented. Men tended to dominate the field as researchers, male models were presented as human models and male areas of interest comprised the subjects of investigation. Anthropology texts were typically described as "studies of man". Consequently feminist anthropologists adopted new areas of study relevant to women and new methods of investigation that ensured a more balanced perspective. This edited collection is an example of this movement. Studies in sex and gender hierarchies are included from the various anthropology sub-disciplines of archaeology, linguistics, sociocultural aspects, etc.

Assessing gender inequalities is complex and both "etic" and "emic" approaches are represented in the book. Etic are those measures devised by social analysts and include the division of labour by sex, inheritance rights and marriage forms; those used by physical anthropologists and archaeologists include skeletal evidence and nutrition. Emic measures are those measures that are only valid to the participants within a particular culture, such as indicators of status taken from myth and folklore, and is the method most often used by cultural anthropologists because of their ability to directly question their subjects. This is an interesting collection in part due to this attempt to bring together the sub-disciplines and different methods of inquiry, all with the common purpose of investigating the complexities of sex and gender hierarchies.

There are seventeen contributions to this volume, three provide an overview and theoretical perspective, eight examine sex and gender hierarchies from conception to death, and six discuss the complexity and change involved in gender hierarchies. Chapters include, for example, Zilman's examination on the evolution of sex differences among non-human primates; the evolution of human gender hierarchies by Marvin Harris; analysis of mother-child interactions and their relationship to the visibility of motherhood by Och; variations in male-female involvement in offspring care among non-human primates by Wright; Herdt's chapter on boy's sexual and gender identities in Papua; and Cohen and Bennett's skeletal studies of gender hierarchies in pre-history.

Although a survey of human societies in the 1990s would disclose most (although not all) societies to be male-dominated, several authors in this volume stress the importance of studying the reasons for this. Particularly helpful in this type of investigation is the research on non-human primate societies where male dominance is not so evident. Archaeology also discloses evidence that patriarchy has not been the norm historically.

Sex and gender hierarchies cannot be explained by genitals and chromosomes: the term "gender" relates to social constructions, meaning that gender hierarchies are not natural but are cultural and are consequently subject to change. The emphasis on change in this book prompts the reader to question any previous assumptions relating to gender hierarchies and urges them to consider avenues through which gender hierarchies can be transformed.

Gender hierarchies are one of the most pervasive forms of inequality. Gender is used as a basis of a system of discrimination which has led to women being disadvantaged in all spheres of human society, in education, nutrition and employment. As such this volume is an important and valuable contribution to our understanding of how this inequality can be challenged in the world today.

Reviewed by Christine Marlow, Fulbright Scholar, University of New Mexico, USA (on attachment at School of Social Work, Zimbabwe).

Clinical Social Work Supervision (2nd edition), Carlton E Munson, The Haworth Press, New York, 1993, ISBN 1-56024-285-X (p/b), 492 pp inc index, Price N/K.

Dr Munson argues that good clinical supervision is a necessity, not a luxury in the current practice world characterised by increasing demands for accountability, extremely complex and difficult situations, and ethical dilemmas. *Clinical Social Work Supervision* is an attempt to provide social workers with an essential understanding of the supervision process, ways to enhance the value of supervision and the challenges and opportunities for supervision in special settings, client groups, and therapeutic models. The book incorporates research findings, case examples, as well as more theoretical discussions.

Dr Munson presents the history of practice knowledge and social work supervision as a basis for understanding current practice and supervision concerns. He then discusses the important role of values and ethics in social work practice and the important role of the supervisor in grounding social work practice within the ethical requirements of social work. According to Munson, supervisors tend to be either active (more direct) or reactive (more indirect) as well as tending to be philosophers, theoreticians, or technicians. Although Munson indicates that the important issue in supervision is the use of the appropriate style as the need arises,

he tends to be especially critical of the philosophical and theoretical styles. While supervisees also have a style in supervision, this style is strongly influenced by that of the supervisor.

The author provides an excellent discussion of useful techniques which can be used by the supervisor, including an educational assessment of the supervisee, case material, case presentations, questions, contracting and reading. He discusses use of audiovisual and action techniques in some detail. Good supervision should recognise the level of knowledge of the supervisee and provide continuity. Although social workers are often reluctant to recognise authority issues, it is important to understand the inherent role of authority in the supervision process and the organisational context.

Munson argues that both theory and technique are important but warns against using theory in an abstract way not tied to the practice demands facing the supervisee. Supervisors need to be well-grounded in the theories they use with supervisees and to develop useful interventions based on the theory. Evaluation of practice is an essential role of supervision. Effective supervision includes constructive use of criticism of clinical material to promote professional growth. Given the organisational context of most social work practice, supervisors need to help staff deal with administrative matters as effectively as possible.

In view of the stressful nature of social work practice, supervisors also need to recognise the signs of stress in their supervisees and themselves and to find appropriate ways to address it.

Munson also discusses some of the unique challenges facing social work and supervision in several settings and practice modes, medical, gerontology, criminal justice (especially group homes), rural communities, family practice, and feminist practice. The book concludes with a discussion regarding the need to be specific about both the creative and scientific aspects of practice.

I appreciated the author's insistence upon drawing boundaries between supervision and therapy and his concern for techniques used in supervision and teaching in general which tend to blur these distinctions and place students and supervisees in vulnerable positions. In his discussion of administration issues, the author describes several types of administrators. Unfortunately all of these types are extremely negative and give a needlessly problematic image of the situation facing supervisors. In his description of family therapy he presents a very helpful grid for understanding the role of many different family therapy techniques. Munson is very skeptical of the value of role playing in supervision; but students in family therapy classes have found it very useful provided adequate care is taken in the structuring and in the debriefing process.

As the preceding description suggests, this is a relatively comprehensive treatment of supervision and should be useful for beginning supervisors and thought provoking for experienced supervisors. The definition of clinical practice used in this book is sufficiently broad to include social work activities with

individuals and families in various settings. Given the very complicated situations facing many families in Africa and the limited social work resources available, good supervision would seem particularly important in providing effective services.

Reviewed by Mary P van Hook, Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, USA.

Adjustment in Africa: Reforms, Results, and the Road Ahead, A World Bank Policy Research Report, The World Bank, Washington D C, 1994, ISBN: 0-8213-2787-9. Price: N/K.

Implementing Structural Adjustment Programmes in Africa has not been an easy task. This is clearly demonstrated in the report made on policy research by the World Bank. A study on adjustment was carried out on twenty-nine countries in Africa, and only six showed some improvement in macro-economic policies and stronger results in economic performance.

The survey examined macro-economic and sectoral policies and discovered that poor policies were largely to blame because they did not facilitate growth. Heavy government spending also contributed to slow growth in the economy. Those countries with better policies achieved faster growth, but generally government spending was high, increasing from the early 1960s and reaching a peak of 17% of GDP in 1988. Even though Africa suffered a fall in terms of trade between 1970-80, it was still expected to pay for its external loans. The report clearly demonstrates how loans and grants affect public income and how changes in terms of trade have an impact on private income.

The report reveals to the interest of the reader how the macro-economic situation reached a crisis proportion in sub-Saharan Africa. Scholars will be interested to see how the report explains the impact of debt crisis in our African countries and how this has led Africa to lose its access to commercial lending. The World Bank explains that the sub-Saharan countries can improve balance of payments by reestablishing a balance between income and spending. It cites pitfalls that befall Africa and goes on to explain some of the inappropriate responses that perpetuate.

Sub-Saharan African countries are supposed to have promoted in unleashing markets, accompanied by high rates of investment in order for competition to help them improve their allocation of economic resources. The report points out that the World Bank in 1991 had recommended countries to try to get price signals right to promote a good business atmosphere. The survey revealed that governments did not handle agricultural and trade issues satisfactorily but did well in reducing administration costs and in the rationing of foreign exchange.

Readers who reside in countries where structural adjustment is implemented and retrenchment is in process will find Chapter Four absorbing because it deals extensively with the problems of the public sector and lack of evidence of significant public enterprise reform.

The World Bank does not only study why and how sub-Sahara Africa did not succeed but also how reforms are paying off. The part on 'pay off' is of interest. It deals with positive issues in the structural adjustment exercise. The section will be of interest to those interested in understanding how macro-economic stability and improved prices for exports, especially agricultural exports benefited some of the countries concerned.

Most sub-Sahara African countries embarked on development programmes with an intention of eradicating poverty. This has been very slow in Africa because of slow economic growth, rapid population growth, and fragile resource bases.

Chapter Six clearly puts across reasons as to why a large number of people in Africa are poor. It also discusses methods of enhancing the capabilities of the poor and tackling poverty through increasing GDP per capita, by securing the right kind of growth and investing in social services. Since poverty and environment are often linked, this section will help the reader understand the interrelatedness of the two phenomena and what could be done to reduce poverty. The World Bank regards investment in people as the right kind of growth and they defend their view against the sub-Saharan African accusation that structural adjustment is hurting a lot of people. The defence given that structural adjustment contributes to faster GDP per capita growth is accounted here in a very defensive way to convince implementors to proceed with it. To a person who does not have an experience of the effects of SAP the argument is very convincing.

This World Bank Policy Research Report is an educative thesis for scholars, economists and other parties interested in understanding why Africa has undergone SAP, what went wrong in the process of implementation, where the poor are, what has been achieved and what next can be done if the exercise is to continue.

Reviewed by Violet Matimba, Lecturer, School of Social Work, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Uganda – Social Sectors A World Bank Country Study, The World Bank, Washington D C, 1993, 196 pp, ISBN: 0-8213-2713-5. Price: \$11,95.

Uganda, a country once a showcase of Africa, has depreciated during the last three decades as a result of its declining social indicators. After reading the whole report one would feel total reconstruction and restructuring is required in all sectors if restoration of functioning is to occur.

This report from the World Bank on a demographic, health and education survey shows high fertility among Ugandans and there is no indication of decline as recorded in the results of 1980s. The situation seems the same as one Ugandan pointed out in his report for the year 1993 that Ugandans have high regard for their fertility as cultural aspects are attached to having many children. The report revealed that Uganda is the second lowest among one hundred and twenty countries in the contraceptive prevalence rate. A glance at the data will inform readers that Uganda has a problem in achieving economic growth, because this is incompatible with high population rates.

Poor health conditions are reflected by the crude death and mortality rates. Because of the AIDS pandemic life expectancy at birth is estimated to decrease to 43 years by the year 1995. The ratio of population growth and dependency depicted in the report is scaring. Uganda plunged into a bad health status as a result of perpetual internal conflict and the severely declined socioeconomic status of most of the people. It is not surprising to read that stuntedness is common because where socioeconomic standards are low, household food intake is also low. Though Uganda is rich in fruit and food production there is acute under-nutrition because most protein providing foods are expensive to purchase, most energy-giving foods are sold in the market to raise money for other purposes than food, leaving less nutritious bananas for consumption as staple food.

According to the survey, education indicators for adults are very low and the section on this describes educational attainment and enrolment in detail. Recommendations in the report centre around investment in human resources, improvement on health education and nutritional conditions if Uganda it so achieve success. The report reveals that there is some improvement in female students enrolment. It reveals a very interesting issue of cost sharing between government and parents which most African countries have avoided, for fear of exerting more financial pressures indirectly on parents.

Unlike other sub-Saharan countries Uganda is constrained in effecting efficient social services as a result of low revenue effort, inadequate system of prioritising government expenditure, and lack of a good living wage for government employees. The report touches on issues that are of concern to the development of the country as a whole as well as those issues that would have promoted economic growth if macro-economic policies were improved. These are issues that involve domestic income, budgeting and planning central government, logistical programmes for health and education and health family planning services and the wage bill.

African scholars, demographers and social scientists would be fascinated to read the Ugandan report as it reflects and confirms some of the problems that have been cited before as impediments to Africa's economic growth. The section on public service is a true reflection of misappropriation of funds which most

countries have experienced. The section on "ghost workers" who were said to be on the payroll is fascinating and frustrating at the same as it brings out the true picture of experiences faced not only by Uganda but other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. These are some of the issues that makes the report interesting.

The findings on the research on social sectors give insight to the situation of Uganda as a Third World country and at the same time poses a lot of questions as to how many and which other countries fall within a similar situation to that of Uganda. This book is suitable for social development planners and scholars and could be included in their socioeconomic literature.

Reviewed by Violet Matimba, Lecturer, School of Social Work, Harare, Zimbabwe

Empowering People Building Community, Civil Associations and Legality in Africa, Richard Sandbrook and Mohamed Halfani (eds), Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, 1993, 209 pp, ISBN: 0-7727-1364-2 Price: \$14,95 + GST.

This volume contains the contributions of participants to the International Conference of Civil Associations held in Arusha in August 1991. Taken as whole, it provides an overview of the aims, strategies and tactics of a range of NGOs in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa and the obstacles faced by them as they confront, or attempt to negotiate with, the state. With over 30 papers, the editors clearly faced problems of organisation and presentation. To a certain extent, this has been resolved by gathering papers into sections, providing an introduction (Sandbrook) and a conclusion (Halfani) and the insertion of brief editorial linking passages between the sections.

Sandbrook's introduction notes that the themes of popular participation and empowerment of people have featured centrally in a wide range of prescriptions for political reform and economic recovery in Africa and raises the problem that these terms have a wide range of meanings. However, as he makes it clear, the book reflects the focus of the Conference, namely the problems involved in engendering a wider consciousness of political, legal, social and economic rights and building sustainable, coherent and popular organisations that can defend and extend these rights against undemocratic states and the elites closely associated with them.

The first section of the book contains Julius Nyerere's opening address (Reflections on Empowering), a record of some of the discussion which followed and presentations on general themes by Halfani and Ampaw. Nyerere, whilst acknowledging the failures of the post-colonial state, interventionist policies and the practice of socialism, warns against taking a too confrontational stance against the state and of the dangers of promoting sectional factionalism which could under-

mine national unity and destroy an already fragile national state. In the relatively frank exchange of views that follows and in Halfani's and Ampaw's papers two main points are made. Firstly, that the over-extended African state has to be confronted and secondly that, without addressing social and economic inequalities, attempts to institute political democracy and legal rights are likely to prove ineffectual.

The rest of the contributions are loosely arranged under topics such as, Bringing Law to the People, Building Community and Civil Associations, Regenerating Civil Society, creating conditions for Democratic Development. Despite the range of organisations represented, and the variations in their experience, the papers mostly reflect a common theme of conflict with the state and the problems involved in creating a sustainable role for voluntary civil associations. As such, they make interesting reading and add to the documentation on the growth of civil associations in Africa during the last ten years. They also clearly indicate a process of increasing politicisation as such associations attempt both to confront the state and develop a degree of independence from northern NGOs. As Halfani, in his conclusion to the book, notes, this represents a significant move away from the welfare and leisure oriented civil associations of the colonial and immediate post-colonial periods. He also argues that it reflects an attempt to recapture the civil space hitherto dominated by the colonial and post-colonial state.

However, as Halfani recognises, nearly all of the 49 organisations represented at the Conference fell into two types. There were what he terms 'service agencies' set up by professionals (eg lawyers, academics) to expose the state, defend legal rights and empower 'the people' or weaker sections of society (eg women) by disseminating knowledge of rights. There were also organisations, again often set up by professionals, whose main aim is to enhance developmental activities within local communities. In this sense, the Conference did not represent the range of grassroots people's associations such as rotating credit associations, burial societies and artisan cooperatives which have existed in most African societies for decades and which are an important feature of civil society and a major means of ensuring community survival when government strategies or market solutions fail. Halfani argues that, without some wider form or articulation between civil associations, leading to their crystallisation into social movements, there is a danger of either ultimately unsuccessful conflict with the state or withdrawal from engagement in the political process and concentration on purely local or sectional interests.

One of the problems with the book is that it falls uneasily between a more theoretical and general discussion of the nature of contemporary African politics, particularly the vexed problem of the nature of the state and civil society, and a documentary account of the raw experience of those involved in day-to-day

struggles. Many of the participants seem to have accepted the conventional view that a central characteristic of African societies is the absence or uneven development of civil society. However, what many of the contributions portray is not so much the growth of civil society in Africa, but rather the emergence and consolidation of a new professional middle class which is playing a central role in the politicisation of parts of an existing civil society. The ability of this social group to play such a role appears to depend on a particular historical conjuncture characterised by the uneven development of the market and the severe structural changes imposed on a fragile post-colonial state. Thus, the book raises, but does not answer, fundamental questions about the class nature of political and civil society in Africa and the extent to which the civil associations represented at the conference are likely to form the basis for more broadly based social movements.

Reviewed by Ian Clegg, Lecturer, Centre for Development Studies, University of Swansea, Wales, UK.

The People of the Great River: The Tonga Hoped the Water Would Follow Them, Michael Tremmel and the River Tonga People. Artwork by Loes Roos, Publisher: Mambo Press in association with Silveira House (Price: approx Zim \$10 from Silveira House, Mambo Bookshops, and Grassroots Bookshops).

This short, accessible, and honest book should be read by people interested in the Zambezi valley's social and natural history. It tells the tale, directly, and in the words of a selected group of elderly local people, of the consequences experienced by the River Tonga People since they were translocated to make way for the rising waters of Kariba dam.

Fr. Michael Tremmel, a Catholic priest, has spent the last eight years in Binga District. He states his belief that the old missionary approach of bringing 'enlightenment' was wrong, and he sees himself as a "missioner", or someone who recognises that God has been, and is present, in the Tonga culture and tradition.

The motive for the book emanates from the author's empathy with the forced sacrifice, made by the River Tonga, for the sake of a nation they did not identify with. In the history of land re-classification of Zimbabwe, the Tonga were not alone in paying the cost for the benefit of others. Nevertheless, the book testifies to the fact that a social and economic price was paid for a 'greater commonwealth'. Those who benefited most, with hindsight, are all users of hydro-electric power from Kariba, and the wildlife and fishery based industries of the region.

The book is not a deep historical account, nor a academic book, more an authentic tribute to the local people. It recognises an event, occurring in the late 1950s, which changed the environment they had co-existed with for centuries. What brings the book to life is that the author analyses several themes – life before the flooding, displacement, life today, and future prospects – with a group of Tonga men and women who have lived through the entire experience.

It provides many direct quotes which will remain as windows into the people's perception of their world. For example Kapu Muchimba, talking about ritual and family life, says:

"We still perform our ancestral ceremonies this side of the lake even though we are separated from our relatives. We should be together with our relatives on the other side of the lake so we could do these ceremonies together with our ancestors".

We are reminded that neither culture nor nature fits neatly into national boundaries, and that this is tiresome for many people.

As someone who has related to rural development activities in the area since national independence, it is hard for me to accept that outcome of the development effort pales in comparison to the spiritual and material experience of resettlement. Being directly involved in the CAMPFIRE Programme, which aims to link wildlife to rural development, it is disappointing to read mainly negative personal impressions of wildlife from the Tonga contributors. Hopefully, this situation is still changing and younger people will, in their lifetimes, realise a greater share of the natural resource wealth in their region.

Tears and tribulations may be the inheritance of the recent past, but salvation can surely only come through the local organisation of the Tonga themselves around the natural resource base in their district. The revenues presently captured by CAMPFIRE are only a part of the wildlife, aquatic, and tourist revenue resource flows. The Tonga need their own leaders, and they need to pull together, for in the words of a Tonga proverb quoted in the book, *"the one who walks alone by the stream, gets eaten"*.

Perhaps many adults will be too cynical to get much from this book, but I would urge parents to buy it for their children. We all have our own ideas about the Zambezi valley, especially the wildlife and fishing fraternity, why not learn how the potential stewards of the valley, the resident people, feel about it? While the author's recommendation that visitors should befriend a Tonga family may be going too far for most 'strangers in paradise', the point should be well taken.

Michael Tremmel's book comes from the heart and faithfully puts across the people's perspective. It is beautifully illustrated by Loes Roos, and has a fold-out map showing settlement, by chiefdom, before and after the valley floor was inundated by the Zambezi's waters. It is quite readable and I would especially recommend it to all secondary school children who should be informed of the nation's origin.

Silveria House, which has supported the book, have made it the centerpiece of a number of activities aimed at promoting awareness of the life of the River Tonga, past and present. They will publish the book in Tonga as well as English, and they launched the book in Binga first. A set of cards taken from Ms Roos' illustrations is also being made available to the public.

Review by Simon Metcalfe, Advisor to Zimbabwe Trust CAMPFIRE support project. Research fellow with the Centre for Applied Social Sciences, University of Zimbabwe.