

Social Realism, Knowledge and the Sociology of Education Coalitions of the Mind

Karl Maton and Rob Moore

'The centrality of knowledge to the sociology of education may seem obvious, but its importance has been neglected for the best part of thirty years. This book makes a persuasive case for reinstating knowledge at the heart of our field.'

Professor Geoff Whitty, Director, Institute of Education, University of London,

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'This book advances debates in education about the nature of knowledge and the curriculum consolidating the position of social realism. A developed social realism has been a long time in the making but now must count as the most powerful critique of relativism and social constructionism in the field: its arguments cannot be ignored.' **Professor Hugh Lauder, University of Bath, UK.**

'Social Realism, Knowledge and the Sociology of Education offers debates about schooling, teacher training, and educational equity beyond post theories such as post-structuralism and post-modernism. Such theoretical work is crucial to current educational debates across the globe.' **Professor Parlo Singh, Griffith University, Australia.**

This key volume is both timely and important in bringing together for the first time seminal papers and new material to examine an increasingly influential school of thought: realist sociology of education that places knowledge at its heart.

This volume covers issues in the sociology of knowledge, the educational system and policy, professional autonomy, vocational education, educational research and teaching, as well as the nature of such disciplines as cultural studies, English, science and the arts. The chapters also directly address the nature of sociology of education itself. The realist position developed in the book challenges two major currents of thought that have for a long time been prominent and influential in sociology and education: postmodernism and progressivism/ constructivism.

This well-edited collection of papers is provocative and original in that it represents a sustained, collective critique that offers a genuine alternative to these current orthodoxies.

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