



New Book Information

Can Educators Make a Difference? Experimenting with, and Experiencing, Democracy in Education

Edited by **Paul R. Carr**, *Lakehead University*, **David Zyngier**, *Monash University*
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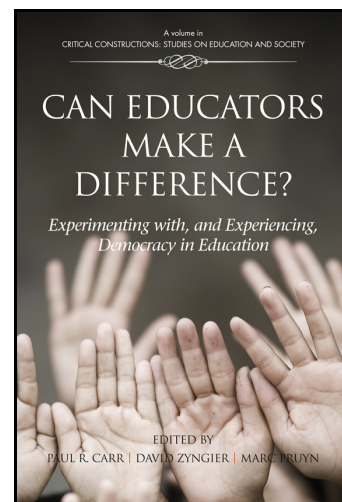
A volume in **Critical Constructions: Studies on Education and Society**
Series Editor: *Curry Stephenson Malott, West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

As the title of this book suggests, how we understand, perceive and experience democracy may have a significant effect on how we actually engage in, and with, democracy. Within the educational context, this is a key concern, and forms the basis of the research presented in this volume within a critical, comparative analysis. The Global Doing Democracy Research Project (GDDRP), which currently has some 70 scholars in over 20 countries examining how educators do democracy, provides the framework in which diverse scholars explore a host of concerns related to democracy and democratic education, including the impact of neoliberalism, political literacy, critical engagement, teaching and learning for and about democracy, social justice, and the meaning of power/power relations within the educational context.

Ultimately, the contributors of this book collectively ask: can there be democracy without a critically engaged education, and, importantly, what role do educators play in this context and process? Why many educators in diverse contexts believe that they are unable, dissuaded and/or prevented from doing *thick* democratic education is problematized in this book but the authors also seek to illustrate that, despite the challenges, barriers and concerns about doing democracy in education, something can, and should, be done to develop, cultivate and ingratiate schools and society with more meaningful democratic practices and processes.

This book breaks new ground by using a similar empirical methodology within a number of international contexts to gauge the democratic sentiments and actions of educators, which raises a host of questions about epistemology, teacher education, policy development, pedagogy, institutional cultures, conscientization, and the potential for transformational change in education.

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Publication Date: 2012

ISBNs:

Paperback: 978-1-61735-813-5
Hardcover: 978-1-61735-814-2
E-Book: 978-1-61735-815-9

Price:

Paperback: \$45.99
Hardcover: \$85.99

Trim Size: 6 X 9

Subject: Education,

BISAC Codes:

EDU000000
EDU034000
EDU037000

IAP - Information Age Publishing, PO Box 79049, Charlotte, NC 28271
tel: 704-752-9125 fax: 704-752-9113 URL: www.infoagepub.com

IAP - Information Age Publishing Inc.

List Price: \$45.99 each paperback plus s/h and \$85.99 each hardcover plus s/h

Special Price: \$35.99 each paperback plus s/h and \$59.99 each hardcover plus s/h

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