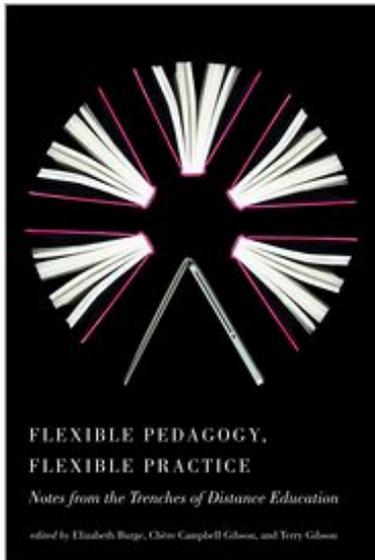


BOOK REVIEW
FLEXIBLE PEDAGOGY AND FLEXIBLE PRACTICE
Edited by Elizabeth Burge, Chère Campbell Gibson and Terry Gibson

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The term of “flexible learning” means that the learner’s any time and any place involvement of the learning process without limitations on time and location. It can be said that flexible learning opportunities are provided for the learners via digital environments as open and distance learning environments. By this means, the learners can reach the learning contents without having to be in a particular location. Therefore, it can be seen that learning environments having flexible structures are important points for efficiently learning.



The book “Flexible Pedagogy and Flexible Practice” are especially distance learning centered, and contain compilations of worldwide instructor’s essays about flexible learning. The theme of the book and the twenty three articles in it are about the subject of flexibility in education and learning.

Every presented essay provides different points of view about flexible learning like positive-negative and philosophic-practical points of view. This book, which is a compilation of different essays, also discusses the effects of the interactions between technology and learning environments and concentrates on learning technologies.

The purpose of the compilation process is to form new perspectives about flexible learning. In this sense, the encountered difficulties of instructors defending the flexible learning process are emphasized. A second reason is to express how to

make use of flexible learning processes with a global perspective. It can be said that these objectives can be followed out with the remarks of different experiences of groups.

Thirty-five authors from nine different countries have given contributions to this widely ranged compilation in the perspective of education and learning. This book, made as a compilation, consists of five different chapters.

The first chapter consists of three different essays that explaining the concept of flexibility. The essays present detailed information about the subjects of how flexibility was understood in the 21st century, how learners comprehend flexible learning processes, the configuration of flexible learning processes and the layout selection.

The second chapter consists of four essays that focused on the difficulties of flexibility. The subdivisions of the studies in this chapter are; Flexible Distance Learning for Social Transformation, The Policies Needed in the Process of Flexible Learning, Learning Processes and Productivity, Asian Higher Education, Existing Cultural Perception about the Subject of Flexibility and Flexibility and Openness in New Zealand.

The third chapter consists of nine subdivisions that focusing on difficulties in postsecondary education, achievements-failures in change implementation and flexibility. These subdivisions are as follows: Before the Fall: Breaking Rules and Changing Minds, Implementing an Online System: Voices of Experience, Adding Flexibility to Higher Education Using OERs: Lessons from the Open University, From "Here" to "There": The Rocky Road to Flexibility, Where Has the Effort Gone?: The Quest to Sustain Momentum, An Elephant's Lifetime: The Patience of Job, The Garden of Learning Delights: The Librarian's Tale, Reflecting on Swamp Life, Mapping the Driving and Restraining Forces on Flexibility in Higher Education.

The fourth chapter consists of three essays that focusing on the benefits of chance and natural balances that affect systematic change. These essays are subtitled under The Fog of Flexibility: The Riskiness of Flexible Post-secondary Education in Australia, Flexing Costs and Reflecting on Methods, "Which Is to Be Master"? : Reflections on Ethical Decision Making.

The fifth chapter indicates that there is a balance in anthology by presenting three perspectives like the difficulties faced and things to take into consideration for the ones who support flexibility in learning. The studies in this chapter are compiled and subtitled under: The Paradoxes of Flexible Learning, Transformational Technologies: Exploring Myths and Realities, "Plenty of Saps", What Happens in the Stretch to Flexibility?

The conclusion is written by Elizabeth Burge, Chère Campbell Gibson and Terry Gibson who do the editing in this book. In this chapter, a proper synthesis is presented by the three authors who do the editing in the book for the readers to deeply understand the practical and theoretical parts of flexible learning.

Rather than an individual effort, the process of the formation of the book is obtained from thirty five authors and three editors. In this sense, it can be said that this book which is arranged with multi perspectives, is a valuable source especially for the ones who enable their learning process through distance learning.

Flexibility can evoke different meanings for different individuals. With the development of technology, the term "flexibility" is also expanding and it allows learners in the process of learning to learn and teach comfortably. Flexibility is based on context and as the studies in the book state; it is at the same time seen as a concept which is acutely influenced by geography, language, culture, political ideas, economy and global structured relationships. As we get closer to a global perspective, social flexibility and adaptability become more important. This book where the subject of flexibility in learning environments is talked about is seen as an important source because of its ability to show the changeable nature of flexibility and complex contents.

At the same time, this book is important for graduate and undergraduate learners because of its importance in terms of educational leadership, instructional design, learning theories and extensive learning practices. The book is arranged to form an interactive debate platform about the difficulties of flexibility provided by the learning process. Every chapter in the book is centered upon the necessity of flexible learning environments.

This book which is a compilation of essays about flexibility in the learning process, is an important study in terms of starting and supporting common debates about flexibility in the learning process.

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