

Book Review

Aggleton, P., & Parker, R.(Eds.).(2015). *Men who sell sex: Global perspectives*. New York, NY: Routledge.

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This edited volume, examining personal, cultural and social understandings of male sex workers, updates Aggleton's 1998 work on the same topic. Its 18 chapters cover a diverse range of topics, embracing a global perspective and a variety of methodologies and theoretical orientations. The editors set the tone for the volume with an introductory essay that describes its purpose, reviews relevant literature on the topic (including new methodological approaches), and provides a thematic overview of the book's varied and diverse topics. These include 1) "global transformations and the organization of sex work" and 2) the importance of gender roles and their social construction in various global and cultural contexts (p. 7).

This is an important work as it addresses a topic that has received relatively scant attention in the literature, and as the authors state, is often "conflated" with sex trafficking, which is not at all its primary focus. It therefore contributes to social workers' knowledge of the life paths of men who engage in sexual activity for money, across cultures and countries, providing an understanding of the personal, familial, and social factors that have had a direct influence on their lives, both currently and in the past. It also addresses the stigmatization, and often criminalization of male sex work, providing a more accurate lens through which to view such work and those who perform it, and, in keeping with social work values and ethics, reveal the strengths of these men, who are almost universally devalued, if not demonized.

While *Men Who Sell Sex* does have a limited focus (by design), that very limitation is also a strength.

It would be especially valuable for social work educators teaching diversity, human behavior, and professional practice courses, as Aggleton and Parker and the book's contributors encourage examination of governmental policies toward male sex workers, including the aforementioned criminalizing of their work, as well as the consequences of those policies.

Finally, by providing concrete information on the different ways in which sex work occurs, the contexts of such work, what male sex work means to both providers and consumers, and the implications of this work (including health issues), Aggleton and Parker's volume provides social workers with a knowledge base from which to engage in evidence-based practice, policy analysis, and policy formulation toward the goal of increasing understanding of the implications of male sex work for individuals, families and social institutions across the globe.

Peter Aggleton is Professor of Education and Health in the Centre for Social Research in Health and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in New Zealand. He is also the editor of several peer-reviewed journals and holds visiting professorial positions in the United Kingdom

Richard Parker is Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Anthropology at Columbia University, where he also directs the Center for the Study of Culture, Politics and Health. Dr. Parker has recently published manuscripts on health and sexuality, and public health, and is the editor of a peer-reviewed journal, *Global Public Health*.