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Organizing for Power and Empowerment. Jacqueline B. Mondros
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BOOKNOTES

Marie D. Hoff and John G. McNutt, *The Global Environmental Crisis: Implications for Social Welfare and Social Work*. Brookfield, VT: Avebury, 1994. \$59.95 hardcover.

Academic and popular interest in environmental issues has increased rapidly in recent years, once regarded as a fringe activity, the promotion of sound ecological policies and programs now has widespread public support. The field is no longer the exclusive purview of biologists and environmental engineers but has attracted attention from other disciplines including the humanities and social sciences.

This pioneering book examines the contribution of social work and social policy to environmental studies, and particularly to the formulation of environmental policies and programs. The editors make a strong case for the involvement of social work and social policy in the field. Although environmental problems obviously affect the physical and biological worlds, they are essentially human problems. Environmental damage is inflicted by humans and it has negative consequences on their well-being. As this book vividly demonstrates, the ultimate purpose of environmental policy is the protection of human beings.

The book contains a variety of interesting articles dealing with the role of social work and social policy in addressing environmental concerns. The articles make for interesting reading, and their call for the greater involvement of social workers in environmental programs should be heeded. The book is essential reading for social workers and social service personnel who need to know more about the relevance of environmental issues to their work.

Jacqueline B. Mondros and Scott M. Wilson, *Organizing for Power and Empowerment*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. \$49 hardcover; \$22.50 papercover.

By focusing on the practical aspects of community organizing, Mondros and Scott have made a useful contribution to the growing literature on community social work practice. The book does not ignore theoretical questions but its primary purpose

is to describe the practical steps in the community organization process. These steps involve the recruitment of participants, maintaining and deepening member participation, strategy development, implementation of community action programs and finally the evaluation of outcomes. A unique feature of the book is its use of the practical experiences of 42 community organizations along the East Coast of the United States to frame the discussion and provide concrete illustrations of the many dimensions of successful organizing.

The book is well written and will be particularly useful to students. Its arguments are logically presented and the authors make good use of practical examples. Their use of the concept of 'empowerment' is thoughtful and realistic. Although this term has been overused in the literature, the authors give it substance and meaning. The book should be widely prescribed by community organization instructors at schools of social work.

Karl-Ernst Hesser and Wibo Koole (Eds.), *Social Work in the Netherlands: Current Developments*, Utrecht, Netherlands: SWP Publishing Co., 1994. \$19.00 papercover (Available from SWP Publishing, P. O. Box 578, NL-3500 Utrecht, The Netherlands).

The literature on international social work is still very limited and the publication of this book about social work in the Netherlands is, therefore, to be welcomed. The book shows that social work in the Netherlands shares many common features with social work in the United States but that there are differences as well. The book describes the 'Amsterdam model' in substance abuse treatment, and it contains an instructive article on the Dutch approach to community development. The chapter on social work education in the Netherlands is particularly interesting. Unlike the United States, social work education is provided by non-university institutions known as 'higher schools' which have considerably autonomy to decide their own curricula and determine the nature of their study programs.

On the other hand, the chapters on social work with migrants, children and young people and the victims of aids reveal that there are many similarities in social work practice between the two countries. These similarities, as well as differences, show