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The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 25
Issue 2 *June*

Article 16

May 1998

Careers in Social Work. Leon H. Ginsberg.

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Recommended Citation

(1998) "*Careers in Social Work.* Leon H. Ginsberg.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 25 :
Iss. 2 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol25/iss2/16>

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Leon H. Ginsberg, *Careers in Social Work*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 1997. \$ 16.50 papercover.

Despite the fact that social work has now evolved into a recognized profession, there is still confusion about social work's role, scope and mission. All too often, social work practitioners, faculty members and students complain that social work is poorly defined and it lacks a coherent identity. One often gets the impression that many social workers today do not know with certitude what social work is and what social workers do.

Leon Ginsberg's book should be consulted by those who continue to have questions and doubts about the nature of professional social work. It provides a straightforward account of the characteristics and history of social work, the role of professional education for social work practice and the employment (and self-employment) opportunities for qualified social workers. It examines six major fields of practice in which social workers are widely employed and which are often regarded as defining areas for professional intervention. These are the public social services, health and mental health services, services for children and older people, correctional programs, community organization and social work administration. Included in this discussion is brief but useful information on social work careers in international agencies, employee assistance programs and research institutes. The book also provides helpful information about job satisfaction, licensing and other credentials, salaries and employment conditions, burnout, union membership and many other aspects of a professional career in the field.

The book is brief but comprehensive and while some of the sections are rather truncated, it is an excellent introduction to the field. It should be widely read not only by those interested in becoming social workers but by those who already hold social work qualifications. There is much in this highly informative book which will be of interest and enlighten even those who have long experience of working in the field.

Neil Gilbert (Ed.), *Combating Child Abuse: International Perspectives and Trends*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. \$ 45.00 hardcover.

In recent years, the neglect and maltreatment of children has become a major public policy issue. While only the most serious