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Review of *Issues in International Social Work*. Washington, DC: NASW Press, 1997. M. C. Hokenstad and James Midgley (Eds.). Reviewed by Nazneen Mayadas, University of Texas, Arlington.

Nazneen Mayadas
University of Texas, Arlington

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span a broad territory including research findings, methods, theory, values and metaphor, although, in keeping with current usage, almost anything may be referred to as a theory.

Having offered so many trees the editors call upon Edwin Thomas to assess the state of the forest. Thomas meticulously delineates eight models of linkage between social science and social work. He notes that the majority of papers reflect substantive, methodological and organizational contributions of social science to social work. Only a few identify possible contributions of social work to social science. There is very little mention of social work practice methods whether familiar or unconventional. While there is strong emphasis on the impact of the social context on social work and social science, reference to any impact of social science or social work on the environment is scanty.

Finally, the reader is offered the story of the Social Work and Social Science doctoral program at the University of Michigan told by two of the programs guiding spirits, Robert Vinter and Rosemary Sarri. The program is celebrated as a unique model of the integration of social work and social science. The praise is not unmitigated, however, as the authors lament the current focus of research on, "measurement and assessment of social problems," rather than on prevention and intervention.

The book thus suggests a mixed assessment of the integration movement. It provides some excellent applications of critical knowledge from social science and social work, yet illustrates Law and Rein's view that within the academy, disciplinary research tends to crowd out practice concerns. While acquiring much that is of use in practice, research and education the reader may conclude that true integration of social work and social science remains an illusive commodity.

Bart Grossman

University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare

M. C. Hokenstad and James Midgley (Eds.), *Issues in International Social Work*. Washington, DC: NASW Press, 1997. \$26.95 papercover.

The book, *Issues in International Social Work* is a timely, topical and innovative contribution to the international field of Human Services. While there are many renditions of country

specific responses to international problems, very little exists in the literature that extrapolates global issues of international interest. This volume is unique in that it moves the focus from a descriptive country-based study of social problems to the international concern for common global problems that affect the human race. A major focus is the interdependency of economic, political, socio-cultural and environmental factors.

Hokenstad and Midgley in their introduction provide an excellent overview and rationale for the necessity to understand the growing movement towards global sharing and inter-country understanding. They outline the expected role of social work at the turn of the twentieth century and open up new horizons for social work to become a more encompassing profession, responsive to the awareness of economic, political and socio-cultural issues which interactively affect human welfare.

Midgley in his chapter, "Social Work and Social Development" highlights this interdependency through the sustainable union of economic growth and social welfare. He points out that economic growth is only viable when it has a positive impact on the well being of all citizens of a country. He terms economic prosperity of the elite in many African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries as "distorted development", where there is a tunnel vision of wealth and development for select groups. This, he aptly argues, leads to the country's failure to achieve an integrated development, and results in the social demoralization of the masses, while boosting a handful of the wealthy.

Midgley further outlines strategies of a social development approach and points out how social work's international origins, values and goals are consistent with these strategies, hence it can easily integrate the developmental model of intervention into the practice expertise of social workers.

Other chapters focus on issues such as the environmental crisis and its effect on human well-being; demographic changes; consequences of population explosion; the expanding gap between the rich and the poor; the general pre-occupation with human longevity without much thought to the quality of this extended lease; the growing recognition for the necessity for gender equality, and finally, the need for acceptance of ethnic, and other forms of human diversity. The book makes an excellent contribution

to the cumulative and interactive effect of these issues, coupled with changing world conditions, and how these affect the role of service professions.

Within this context, the various authors advocate how social work needs to adopt a more integrative and comprehensive model of intervention, such as that of Social Development, which conceptualizes human development as a sustainable gain only if it is achieved within the context of an economic development model that benefits all citizens. The book proposes a professional education focus, which covers an international spectrum of issues and selects multiple and simultaneous interventions to address these concerns.

This book is truly international in its approach and provides direction to the inevitable changes facing the profession as a result of the revolutionary world changes. Each chapter is written in depth and with great clarity, outlining issues at the global level and tracing their trickle down effect to a local level. Furthermore, all chapters discuss the changing role of social work in the context of the respective issues and provide principles and strategies for analysis and intervention.

The most outstanding feature of this book is in its persuasive arguments urging all practitioners to abandon their parochial outlook in favor of practice from a global perspective. These foci place the importance of human rights and social justice at the core of the social work profession and extol its legacy of internationalism.

Nazneen S. Mayadas
University of Texas at Arlington

Susan P. Kemp, James K. Whittaker and Elizabeth Tracy, *Person-Environment Practice*. Hawthorne, NY, 1997. \$ 49.95 hardcover, \$ 23.95 papercover.

Social workers traditionally distinguish themselves from other human service providers because of their allegiance to a person-in-environment focus when interacting with client systems. The primacy of this focus was pioneered by caseworkers during the early part of this century, and later expounded by contemporary theoreticians such as Alex Gitterman, Carel Germain,