

# SOCIAL WORK & CHRISTIANITY

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF CHRISTIANS IN SOCIAL WORK

WINTER 2015  
VOLUME 42, NUMBER 4  
ISSN 0737-5778

## CONTENTS

### EDITORIAL

- In Memoriam: Diana R. Garland (1950–2015)  
*David A. Sherwood* 409

### ARTICLES

- Much to Do About Protest: The Keith-Lucas  
Theory for Mourning  
*Helen Wilson Harris* 413
- Black Men's Perspectives on the Role of the  
Black Church in Healthy Relationship Promotion  
and Family Stability  
*Wanda Lott Collins & Armon R. Perry* 430

### PRACTICE NOTES

- A Wrinkle in the Fold: Inclusion of People with  
Autism Spectrum Disorders in Faith Communities  
*Katie Terry* 449
- Social Work and a Trauma-Informed Ministry and  
Pastoral Care: A Collaborative Agenda  
*Frederick Streets* 470
- Counseling For Empowerment: Working with Girls,  
Parents, and Women Dealing with Turner's Syndrome  
*Jana L. Smith* 488

<b>REVIEWS</b>	497
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	514

Social Work & Christianity is published quarterly by the North American Association of Christians in Social Work, Sandy Hook, Connecticut 06482.

ISSN 0737-5778

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NACSW, PO Box 121; Botsford, CT 06404.

### ***Gender Oppression and Globalization: Challenges for Social Work***

Finn, J. L., Perry, T. E., & Karandikar, S. (Eds.). (2013). Alexandria, VA: Council on Social Work Education.

*GENDER OPPRESSION AND GLOBALIZATION: CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL WORK* IS A collection of thoughtful and timely chapters on a range of global women's issues. Most importantly, these chapters are written *by* social worker academics and educators and *for* social workers and educators.

As a social work educator who teaches a course on contemporary women's issues, I can attest firsthand to the dearth of social work textbooks and literature focused on women's issues—domestically and globally. After years of piecing together required readings for my course and utilizing feminist/women's issues books written outside of the social work arena, it was a breath of fresh air to find *Gender Oppression and Globalization: Challenges for Social Work*. The editors have successfully gathered a unique and important set of authors; they are not just experts on women's issues, but they all have intimate involvement with some of the most pressing and hot-button issues in global women's studies including LGBTQ affirmative practice, immigration, human trafficking, criminality and censorship, and reproductive rights. The result is a book rich in 'real world' content, up-to-date information, and critical implications for social work education and practice.

The organization of the book builds the overall argument of the vital presence of global women's issues in social work practice, beginning with dynamic stories and ending with practical pedagogical strategies. The first section of the book introduces the realities of current social issues, including human trafficking, wrongful gender-based incarceration, and the hypersexualization of black women in media. These opening chapters are perhaps the most engaging and attention-grabbing, thus successfully achieving the consciousness raising the editors sought to build.

The second section of chapters moves beyond the voices and stories of women (although first-hand stories continue to be infused throughout the rest of the book as well) to critical analyses of women's issues through the use of theory, policy, and activism. These chapters include content on women from a range of countries including Ghana, Mexico, Korea, Canada, the United States, and Nicaragua.

The book then concludes with two chapters that perhaps reveal the most telling of the editors' ultimate aims: teaching and learning. I am all too aware of how challenging it can be to translate the tragic realities of gender-based oppression into meaningful and digestible classroom content. *Gender Oppression and Globalization: Challenges for Social Work* is the first text I have found to provide me with practical solutions. Again, this book

is written by social work academics and educators and for social workers and educators.

Not only does this book fill an important gap in the literature by offering a uniquely social work perspective on global women's issues, but it does so in a practical, hands-on, applicable way. At the end of each chapter, the authors offer suggested discussion questions and classroom activities, many of which take an innovative and critical thinking approach to difficult content. Students and educators alike will benefit from these invaluable resources.

As I consider for myself the future of my women's issues course, *Gender Oppression and Globalization: Challenges for Social Work* has challenged me to reconceptualize my content and consider the possibility of utilizing many of these end-of-chapter questions and activities to enliven an online course. Several of the authors in the book allude to another important work in the area of global women's issues—*Half the Sky* by Sheryl Wu Dunn and Nicholas Kristof. I believe that what the editors of *Gender Oppression and Globalization: Challenges for Social Work* have created is an academic partner reading for *Half the Sky* which can, and will, build upon the power of Wu Dunn and Kristof's Pulitzer Prize-winning journalism by providing the academic social work response to global issues of trafficking, injustice, and violence against women.

Perhaps the only notably absent topic from this book is the topic of religion. There is no chapter content at all addressing the role of religion and spirituality in the lives of women globally and domestically. This is a surprising omission, given the centrality of the church in many of the cultures discussed in the book and also given the presence of social service interventions and mission-driven work in areas like trafficking and gender-based violence. It seems there might be a way to include both the positive and negative ways in which the Christian church and religion in general have impacted globalization and gender-based oppression. However, this book may still prove to be a "must-read" for Christian social work educators and globally-minded Christian social work students. Especially as a tool for broadening our understanding of international social work practice and missions, the rigor and critical thought found in *Gender Oppression and Globalization* stands to equip the next generation of social workers and missionaries to engage people and policies in ways that promote social justice, equality, and empowerment. ❖

Reviewed by **Allison M. Tan**, PhD, MSSA, Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of St. Francis, 500 Wilcox Tower Hall S42, Joliet, IL, 60435. Phone: (815) 740-5031. Email: [atan@stfrancis.edu](mailto:atan@stfrancis.edu).