

Futurewatch

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An information service on current thinking about our futures, prepared by futures scanner, Jennifer Coote, Futures Thinking Aotearoa. All yearly dates in final two digits. .

Communications/Transport

Futures of literacy

The Futurist, Mar-April 07, offers a range of perspectives from UK and US experts in trend watching, education and media developments. J. Naisbitt concludes that the written word will survive but education in technology and the arts will lead to new languages. Digital storyteller J. Lambert sees a strong future for the inherent values of 'textual communication'. Visual cultures will bring people back to the written word. Journalist/futurist M. Rogers envisages 2025 where only leaders and long-term planners will need literacy in 'long-form' text. Everyone else will use this only for signage and short emails. Media writer W. Crossman foresees the written word becoming obsolete as talking computers facilitate an oral culture. This he considers is the essential hardwiring in early childhood development. Literacy skills will become the four Cs:- critical thinking, creativity, computer skills and calculators.

Strategic studies expert E. Luttwak looks at the future of foreign policy in a post-literate era, where pictures can provide very misleading information unless there is substantiating data. The rise of the image dooms our civilisation. Education futurist P. Wagschal considers a future when "comfort with ideas and abstractions will be key to good jobs...creativity and innovation will be key to a good life, and the ability to learn how to learn will be the only security you have." C. Rosen, technology/ethics and public policy analyst, thinks that it is still an open question where the current resurgence of images and oral culture will lead. She fears that technology undermines our trust in what we see and that appearance may become preferable to reality. Our communication with future generations will be stunted. Factual note, US reading survey, young adults 18-24 went from one of the most likely reading groups in 1982 to one of the least in 2002.

Books in the Digital Age: The Transformation of Academic and Higher Education Publishing in Britain and the United States, J. B. Thompson, Policy Press, 05. This Cambridge academic and publisher sees a fundamental crisis of legitimacy in publishing. Publishers are now routinely working from authors' electronic files and outsourcing much of the processing and even the sale and distribution. This leaves the value of the financial risk-taking as the publisher's own contribution, though it allows new ideas to take off.

Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public and Leadership Attitudes about Libraries in the 21st century, Public Agenda, 2006, for the Americans for Libraries Council and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This extensive survey reveals that despite the prevailing public cynicism with many institutions, libraries retain a high level of public confidence, but high expectations are held of them. There appears to be limited public appreciation of the challenges facing today's libraries, especially from financial constraints. Plenty of computer and Internet access is a public priority, especially for those with limited access to such facilities. More services for teenagers (homework, study help and space), more convenient opening hours, more access to catalogues and databases are desired. Libraries need to strengthen their own role in addressing serious community problems such as literacy among minorities. Activist citizens need to advocate effectively for consistent and reliable financial support for libraries.

Social networks

New Scientist, 16 September 06, explores the recent development of the Internet, which was a library and is now becoming a vast conversation. Young people especially are going online to live, on My Space, along with millions. Blogs, publicised daily journal entries containing personal photos, have expanded the former possibilities of chatrooms. As Internet portals go mobile, a phone rather than a computer will also provide a video camera, MP3 player and Internet browser in one, enabling always-on communication in words, images and sound, with one's social network.

Sociologist S. Turkle is concerned that this constant sharing of thoughts and feelings is likely to stultify the ability for humans to be alone and contain emotions. A new state of the self is emerging, a tethered subject. This self also grows up with multi-tasking, which may result in unsustainable losses. Even as our world increases in complexity our communications restrict our capacity for uninterrupted thought.

The Person of the Year-YOU, Time (Pacific Edition), Dec 25 06/Jan 1 07, highlights all the ways by which the expanded Internet, Web 2.0, offers our new selves never-before opportunities.

Global blogging expert, E. Zuckerman, New Scientist, 20 January, 07, pp 42-43, speculates about the online world to come as three-four billion users, from very diverse cultures, deploy the smart new technologies, create content, hack each other's sites, blog and share photos and music. Current parochial attitudes will have to stretch as identities are challenged to think and act globally.

The technical convergence behind this networking is explored, A Survey of Telecom Convergence, The Economist, 14 October 06. Previously separate systems and services are merging: fixed and mobile telephony, broadband Internet access and television, can be used through any system users want. Companies are merging and devising deals. But each of the integrated services must be competitive, attractive in their own right and simple for the users.

The Network Society: From Knowledge to Policy, Eds. M. Castells, G. Cardoso, John Hopkins Center for Transatlantic Relations, distrib. Brookings, 06, provides more critical analysis of communications developments, especially the role of the controlling media conglomerates, also key economic issues and the political development of the virtual state, e.learning and education, and urban life becoming 'e.topia'.

Who Controls the Internet? Illusions of a Borderless World, J. Goldsmith, T. Wit, O.U.P. 06. Two eminent legal academics examine the issues where the network is expanding with profound changes, but the governments retain control, resulting in boundaries of bandwidth, language and filters. While there are some advantages in this, increased government control enables replication of government vices.

The Perils and Promise of Global Transparency; Why the Information Revolution May Not Lead to Security, Democracy or Peace, K. M. Lord, State Univ., N.Y. Press, 06, warns that conflicting emotions and agendas can intensify as information and communication systems become so accessible. The strong can become much stronger while accountability is almost impossible.

Infotopia: How Many Minds Produce Knowledge, C. R. Sunstein, O.U.P. 06, a legal academic examines the new developments, such as wikis, prediction markets and blogs, as humans obtain, share and analyse information from very diverse sources. Four major methods are analysed and each has great potential, but all can lead to 'information cocoons', where we hear only that which we choose, or which comforts us or pleases us.

What's new

New Scientist, 27 Jan, 07, pp 24-25, reports on the development of polymer electronic devices, flexible plastic chips which can be used in anything from supermarket packaging to chips inserted in fabric which require special treatments. Due for launching is a small display screen, flexible enough to roll, and an infotainment appliance which is a prototype electronic book.

B. Gates, Scientific American, Jan 07, enthuses about the next PC revolution, the robotics industry. It is poised where the personal computer was thirty years ago. New software programmes will enable a diversity of tasks for the hardware, and common standards and platforms will overcome the present building-from-scratch.

Transport possibilities

The aviation industry is awakening to the need for much greater fuel efficiency in aircraft design. New Scientist, 26 Feb, 07, pp 32-38 presents a number of new concepts, some of which are being developed. Among these is a revised old idea used in military planes, which could also greatly reduce the noise aircraft make as they come into land. Blending the wing and body cuts the bumpy airflow over the carriage which produces the noise. The interior design is a problem because passengers are placed in a wide cabin without windows, surrounded by the baggage and fuel.

K. Chatterjee, A. Gordon, Transport Policy, Vol. 13, 06, pp 254-264, present a research study on five alternative scenarios for transport in Great Britain in 2030, with implications for travel demand and transport provision. Trip making, traffic levels and congestion, and emissions are forecast, with each scenario anticipating traffic growth, offset by limitation on emission levels, improvements in urban public transport and greater fuel efficiency.

Economics/Business

Turning Point?

Expert analyst R. U. Ayres, INSEAD/International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Nov 06, formerly a convinced technological and economic optimist, has reached his turning point. Exponential growth cannot be assumed. The US economy in particular is in deep trouble. Growth optimism calculated on technological progress, along with globalisation, deregulation and privatisation, have not produced sufficient growth to offset side-effects in growing inequity, huge un-assimilatable flows of labour and rising resource conflicts. Industrialised countries' growth patterns are reaching saturation while the developing countries are growing mainly from urbanisation and monetisation of formerly unpaid labour. The US is borrowing from other countries at a rate which absorbs close to three quarters of the savings of the rest of the world. Along with exploitation of non-renewable resources including biodiversity, this form of theft is also reaching limits since there is no repayment.

The only viable driver of future economic growth is huge technological change, particularly in highly efficient energy supply. Otherwise the US and the other industrialised countries are heading for slowdown and extended depression. While this could dramatically reduce energy demand, other implications are frightening.

To reverse the situation, prompt action is required to end the Iraq war and recognition that the war on terror can only be won by promoting economic development, international law and religious tolerance.

He notes that when applying the Kondratieff long-wave analysis, with its fifty-year cycles based on shifts in energy sources, there may be a modifying factor which would lengthen the latest cycle. Thus an economic decline could now be underway with an upswing built on new energy technologies likely about 2030. A longer term perspective for a consequent sustainable world of 2100 is outlined.

Kondratieff Waves, Warfare and World Security, Ed T. C. Devezas, IOS Press, (Amsterdam) 06. There is continuing controversy about the existence and persistence of these K-waves. This collection comes from an Advanced Workshop based on the close relationship between the K-wave pattern and outbreaks of major wars involving Europe and America, as well as linkages to economic cycles and patterns of technological innovation. The diverse contributions provide an updating of the K-wave thinking, including factors which could substantially derail or modify the concept.

Economic ideas

Economists are coming to terms with the finer points of the waves of globalised production unbundling. A second phase is underway, analysed by Princeton economists G. Grossman, E. Rossi-Hansberg, *The Economist*, 20 Jan 07, p 86, www.princeton.edu/~grossman. This presents international competition not only as it operates at national or sector or company level, but also as it affects individual tasks in the production chain. When any of these aspects is capable of off-shoring elsewhere, victims and remedies are much harder to identify.

A controversial idea arising from the apparent inability of modern capitalism to create contentment as well as wealth is expressed by Lord Richard Layard in a London School of Economics lecture, published by Penguin, *Happiness: Lessons From a New Science*, 05. GDP is dismissed as a measure of welfare since measures of human dissatisfaction are rising in rich countries. Economics needs redefining away from the relationship of given ends and scarce resources. The remedies are to redistribute wealth by taxation on the rich, less emphasis on rewards for the leaders and a spread of rewards among the workers, which would foster trust and better social interaction. *Political Quarterly*, Oct-Dec, 06, G. R. Steele critiques Layard's ideas at length as "worn philosophy, wrong method and just plain bad economics."

Princeton psychologist and economist, D. Kahneman, A. B. Krueger, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 06, note the considerable literature questioning the rationality of human choices and also note that direct reports of subjective well-being are useful indicators of consumer preference, if they can be done in a credible way. They discuss research into people's responses to questions regarding subjective well-being, which can vary depending on circumstances. They propose a U-index, a sort of misery index which measures the proportion of time people spend in an unpleasant state.

Going green

Five Western US states:- Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona and New Mexico have agreed to create their own cap-and-trade emissions programme. A similar move has occurred among ten North-Eastern states, but the latest one moves further. It will cap companies that generate energy. Companies must then either ramp down operations, invest in cleaner technologies or both to offset targets. These regional models are putting pressure on the Federal Government. *Nature*, 8 Mar, 07 pp 114-115.

Business Review Weekly, Mar. 8-14, 07 likens the insurance industry to the proverbial canary in the coalmine on climate change. The industry has been highly concerned ever since Hurricane Katrina gave terrifying glimpses of the future with super catastrophes. Australian insurers are facing huge challenges in a continent which is especially weather sensitive. Forecasts of climate-change-related natural disasters are estimated to reach losses of US \$150 billion over the next decade, of which insurance portions could be US\$3-40 billion, a sum well beyond the industry' capacity.

A financial services industry report, Nov, 05 examined the implications of climate change for Australia's top one hundred companies. 'Winners':- alternative energy suppliers, recyclers and in the longer term, health companies that benefit from the spread of tropical diseases. 'At risk' are coal exporters, agricultural and industrial companies with water-use issues, also property exposed in high-risk areas, such as Queensland's coasts.

Futures Thinking

Living in a world of risk

A special lecture by U. Beck, Sociologist, London School of Economics, *Economy and Society*, Vol. 35/ 3, 06 notes the irony of risk. The scientific-technical society is plunged, by its perfection, into a situation where we do not know what it is we do not know, as exemplified by climate change. The more emphatically the reality of world risk is denied, the greater the risks to all. Rationality, the experience of the past, encourages anticipation of the wrong kind of risk. In this ambivalent situation there may be an enlightenment function.

There are three reactions to risk: denial, apathy and transformation. The last arises from shock and the need for a new beginning, which is neither utopian nor pessimistic but ironic and ambivalent, keeping in balance with self destructiveness. The world risk society's perceptions are delocalised, incalculable and non-compensatable. The latter is now replaced by the precaution-through-prevention principle, with decisions having to be made on a radicalised not-knowing, where it is easy for both rationality and hysteria to merge. International policies reflect opposing risk beliefs; a clash of risk cultures and risk religions.

The enlightenment function arises as public discourse develops out of consideration for the consequences of decisions, even though the discourse may involve conflict. Risk cuts through the self-absorption of cultures and beliefs, forcing a global communication and involuntary democratisation. Catastrophes such as Banda Aceh can produce a political catharsis, reconciling old enemies. Enforced cosmopolitanism activates concerned groups across borders as the uncontrollable liabilities stimulate new beginnings. Global risk serves as an arousal in the face of governments, with the Left/Right divide taking new forms. There is also the possibility of alternative governments, arising from the inability of any one state alone to cope with the problems. Cosmopolitan *realpolitik* is needed.

Social

On identity

Nobel Prize winning economist A. Sen examines the linkages between Identity and Violence, Allen Lane, 06. He questions assumptions of human identity, since a person's sense of particular ethnic, religious or social group can, in certain situations, lead them to behave in ways otherwise unthinkable. In *New Statesman*, 31 July, 06, pp 34-37, he elaborates on this theme, developed from childhood experience during the communal riots under the Raj in 1944. Here the poorest people, both Muslim and Hindu, were the easiest victims. Their class identities were similar and made them especially vulnerable, but a uniquely confrontational reality had obliterated freedom to think.

Currently, many of the 'high theories' of our cultures are having similar effects, where the multidimensional character of humans is squeezed into boxes of a singular identity. This becomes the basis for short-term and often violent methods in political approaches to contentious societal issues. An example is Iraq, where what Ghandi termed 'vivisection' of a nation is occurring.

There is a compelling need to ask questions, not only about the economics and politics of globalisation, but also about the values, ethics, and sense of belonging that shape our conceptions of the global world.

E. Kolig, from ongoing research among N. Zs Muslim community, *NZ Sociology*, Vol. 21/2, 06 considers that the national, liberal, democratic tradition and the guaranteed human rights agenda enable Muslims to present a distinctive socio-cultural profile and have a voice in the political debate. But there are also concerns nationally about the international radicalisation of Muslims arising from the rigid interpretations of Shari'a. At present there are differencing streams of response to this among Muslims. As they become more settled as a diaspora, will a more pragmatic tendency prevail in Islam, a reform of its discourse which will facilitate adjustment to a secularised Western society? It may not be enough to have their own spaces and some indifference towards the traditions of the host society, rather they may need to develop a sense of fundamental values and perceptions shared with the host society.

M. Dauderstadt, German social policy expert analyst, reviews several recent publications exploring the failing integration of Europe's societies, *Journal of European Social Policy*, Vol.17/1, 07. One monograph, G. Vobruba, *Die Dynamik Europas*, Verlag Fut Sozialwissenschaften, 05, provides a broad, lucid description of important aspects of European integration. It has become the victim of its own success, advanced by experts without much societal involvement. The continuous deepening and widening has strengthened the process until it now affects much of the population, which has begun to mistrust it. Open-market modernisation produces costs first and gains later, with often inequitable distribution of the gains and losses. This is not easy to sell to those badly affected. Minorities may be willing to accept current majority decisions if it can be expected that these may later be modified. In the EU, re-nationalisation and stronger subsidiary have not been at issue. The process of enlargement can be expected to continue, even to include Turkey. This could turn the EU into a differentiated system of 'concentric circles' where integration continues in different policy areas among different member states and less within the EU as a whole. Sociological analysis of this integration is thus extremely important.

Prophetic voices

T. S. Shah, M. D. Toft, senior academics in religion, world affairs and public policy, *Foreign Policy*, July/Aug 06, consider that global politics is increasingly marked by 'prophetic voices', from widely diverse movements with differing methods. As democratic opportunities increase globally, the world's peoples want to talk about God. In many countries, modernising post-independence elites are being challenged by politically empowered faith-based groups, who are becoming more devout. Recent surveys in a number of these countries show that popular support for the involvement of religious leaders in the political arena is welcomed. But the most dynamic religiosity now is radical, modern and conservative, utilising sophisticated methods and technologies to recruit and promote their public agendas. While some can be a potent force for sectarian conflict, others can become leaders in a battle against authoritarian, oppressive systems.

American Fascists: the Christian Right and the War on America, C. Hedges, Jonathan Cape, 06, explores the radical Christian right, the most dangerous mass movement in America, based not on faith but despair. Its roots lie in the growing economic and personal deprivation of tens of millions of Americans as their communities suffer massive unemployment and their neighbourhoods suffer neglect and indifference. It also includes many of the middle class who feel deeply isolated and vulnerable in the outer suburbs. All seek to be protected, loved and feel worthwhile. Increasingly, they view those who see things differently as doomed for destruction.

Demographic transitions

D. Coleman, *Population and Development*, Vol. 32/3, Sept, 06, proposes that a third demographic transition is underway in many Western countries, especially Europe and USA. The ancestry of some national populations is being radically altered by high levels of immigration from remote areas with very distinctive ethnic characteristics, in combination with persistent sub-replacement fertility and accelerated levels of emigration by the domestic population. If this continues, it justifies the term: transition.

Two earlier transitions covered the effects of lower death and birth rates in most industrialised nations. This was closely followed by the dramatic changes resulting from changing sexual behaviour, living arrangements and the setting for childbearing in developed societies.

Persistent low fertility levels, with some variation, are already apparent in many Western European countries and are starting in Eastern and Southern Europe and in the Far East. However persistent high immigration levels have rapidly raised the percentage of foreign-born residents in many European countries to over 10% or more in some instances, with the majority being from non-European countries with higher fertility rates and more youthful age profiles. National populations, hitherto relatively homogenous are becoming much more diverse, very rapidly.

If the projected trends persist, both of immigration and sub-replacement fertility, even conservative projections expect countries such as Sweden or the Netherlands to have majority foreign-origin populations by the end of the century. National immigration policies may modify these. By the standards of Europe's historic experience with migration and population change, the present one is rapid, unprecedented, substantial in economic, social and political terms and irreversible.

Science, 30 June 06, pp 1894-1897, reports that the 'baby deficit' has led to government financial inducements in Australia, Russia, Poland and Germany, for parents who have children, preferably more than one. Benefits include paid childcare and maternity leave, . France, Sweden and several other countries have long had such parental support, which has had some effect, though levels of economic prosperity are also a factor. Sociologists doubt that the financial inducements will have much effect. Sub-replacement fertility is here to stay. Not only are there the continuing work-family pressures for women, but there is a constellation of changing attitudes towards family, career and personal autonomy which is hard to quantify.

A demographic study suggests that once TFRs (total fertility replacement rates) fall below 1.5 per woman the fertility decline has become the low-fertility trap. A

demographic historian argues that low fertility rates are so entrenched in number of developing countries that the world is now on the cusp of a prolonged period of population decline.

State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible, UNICEF, 05. While the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the recent Millennium Goals receive governments' commitments to raising the well-being levels of the neglected millions of the world's children, there is a continuing, enormous gap between rhetoric and reality. At current rates of progress, by 2015, 170 million children will lack access to sanitation, 70 million likewise for improved water and 80 million to primary education.

Investing in Children of the Islamic World, UNICEF, 05. This region includes the largest generation of children and young people in history, and progress here is crucial to combating poverty, accelerating human development and ensuring peace. Some progress is underway, but will it be enough?

Crime and violence

How to Reduce Crime and End Mass Incarceration., M. Jacobson, N. Y. Univ. Press, 05. For policy makers as well as academia, this is a serious consideration of ways to reduce the US mass incarceration rate, which is largely impervious to drops in the crime levels.

New Scientist, 10 Feb 07, p 11, reports on a Washington State Institute for Public Policy report which is an evidence-based study of criminal justice interventions. This meta-analysis examines the cost-effectiveness of various approaches, finding that the greatest gains are made with young offenders put into multidimensional foster care. Electronic tagging has minimal effect. While jailing criminals does drop crime rates, it is very expensive and its returns diminish as more offenders are jailed.

Changing Lives: Delinquency Prevention as Crime-Control Policy, P.W. Greenwood, Univ. Chicago Press, 06, covers a range of successful prevention strategies; what works, what does not work and what isn't known.

Rethinking Domestic Violence, D. G. Dutton, Univ. British Columbia Press, 06. The writer argues against the model of women-as-victims in the domestic violence situation, since the data suggests that women also use violence in intimate relations. Domestic violence perpetrators can be predicted in both genders even in their teens and it now realised that neglect of essential conditions for positive attachment in child-rearing is a huge contributor to adult abusiveness.

Work

Provocations

A Commodified World? Mapping the Limits of Capitalism, C. C. Williams, Zed Books, 05. Economies can be organised in differing ways, which challenges the belief in an unstoppable transition to a fully marketised society. Imagination and effort can develop the potential of a plural economy with initiatives such as local currency exchanges, time banks, employee mutuals, basic income schemes, active community service and policies to redistribute commodified work.

The Futurist, Mar-April, 07, p 17, presents a US report on the changing roles of artists. They will need to create or interpret not only their art, but have skills to create markets for arts often by working partially in the voluntary sector to develop community appreciation and new markets for the arts. All sectors need to realise the importance of creative professionals in public life.

Are Shorter Working Hours Better for the Environment? D. Rosnick, M. Weisbrot, Center for Economic and Policy Research, 06, www.cepr.net, compares US and European energy consumption, finding that reduction in the levels of US working hours and longer vacations would reduce energy consumption by 20%, translatable into lower carbon emissions. Increase in European working hours and shorter vacations would consume 25% more energy. These models are of significance as the fast-growing Asian economies consider their tradeoffs between energy and environment.

F0/future orientation, Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies, 3/06, explores Creative Manpower. J. P. Paludan imagines the evolving future as girls take the lead in educational quality and quantity while many boys fall through the cracks. Four possibilities:- men become the oppressed gender; we face biological facts by letting the boys start later in school and use highly individualised teaching; apply affirmative action; recognise that males may, if less encumbered by too much formal learning, have more opportunities to develop their creative talents and new job areas.

Service Without Guns, D. Eberly, R. Gal, Lulu, 06 download www.lulu.com, argues for a twenty-first century global civilian service period for youth, to replace existing national military service systems. It would be very cost-effective, beneficial for participants and society, and can operate on a large scale.

The workforce, skilled, aging, youthful

Workforce Crisis: How to Beat the Coming Shortage of Skills and Talent, K. Dychtwald, et al, Harvard Business School Press, 06, offers a managerial approach to the need for a paradigm shift from the policy which encourages older workers to retire early, to engaging with three levels of career cohorts. Flexibility is the key, in work times, educational opportunities, retirement and coping with much greater workforce diversity.

C. Lloyd, J. Payne, Work, Employment and Society, Vol. 20/1, 06, question the role of high performance work in the UK skills debate. Policy makers insist that the high skills, value-added economy can be achieved mainly by measures to improve the supply of skills and qualifications, while some academics argue that this approach ignores the structural weaknesses in an economy which depress employer demand for, and utilisation of, such skills. While studies have shown the positive effects of high performance work model on the organisations themselves, little is known about the effects for individual workers.

The model is poorly defined and employers can interpret it in diverse ways. By starting from the outcome, a high-skill, high quality job, the better job, could lead to an examination of work practices, general work conditions, their definition and implementation and on whose terms.

Redistributing Work in Aging Europe, J. W. Vaupel, E. Loichinger, Science, 30 June, 06. Examination of data using two Rostock indicators (ratio of non-workers to

workers, and hour worked per week per capita) are the basis for projections for a vision of a radical reorganisation of work, to some 20-30 hours per week as Europe's workforce ages. Widespread part-time work would open up more opportunities for young people and facilitate their becoming parents.

Live Longer, Work Longer: Ageing and Employment Policies, OECD, 06. This report focuses on policies to improve employment prospects for older workers, who form a substantial source of useful, additional labour. It covers difficulties experienced by older workers, financial incentives, ways to ensure that continuing to work does not incur larger implicit tax, flexible retirement patterns, etc.

P. Warner-Smith et al, investigated mid-age women's expectations of work and retirement, Just Policy, June 06, in the Australian demographic environment. In an ageing society and workforce, women form a major part, but one of huge variability, which could make huge demand on services. They will experience a huge variation in quality of retirement life. Though many women are not leaving the workforce in their fifties, unlike men, their retirement incomes will be more strongly affected by erratic working careers and higher rates of marriage breakdown. They also have much greater unpaid work responsibilities for their families. Their plans are more likely to be contingent of on these factors. Their concerns need to be incorporated into workplace, health and other policy areas.

Young people in Europe: Labour Markets and Citizenship, Eds H. Bradley, J. van Hoof, Policy Press 05, examines the data on causes and consequences of European youth unemployment. The data indicates that categorising winners and losers by their adaptation to the needs of the flexible labour market misses the other barriers the losers face. Poverty, poor educational standards, substance abuse, gang membership and social class are linked and barely surmountable. Social class in particular cuts off achievement of first class citizenship. Achieving financial independence in the prevailing employment and housing conditions is aggravated by the easy access to credit and the resulting burden of long term debt.

Work-life balance

Work-Life Balance in the 21st Century, ed. D. M. Houston, Palgrave Macmillan, 05, examines twelve projects from the Economic and Social Council's Future of Work (launched 1998), part of UK initiatives in this area. National surveys, in depth studies of individual workers, and comparative studies of organisations are included.

Employment and the Family: the Reconfiguration of Work and Family in Contemporary Societies, R. Crompton, Cambridge Univ. Press, 06, is a well-researched study, examining British, US and some European (France, Finland, Norway and Portugal) experience. It considers the social and political context of the work-family situations and the continuation of gender norms and values despite recent structural changes. While state policies in several countries examined are significant factors for increasing work-family tensions, other factors within the family, particularly levels of domestic traditionalism, especially for full-time workers, play an important part. Some state policies will deepen class inequality, because of their lack of support for mothers' full-time work.

The Culture of the New Capitalism, R. Sennett, Yale Univ. Press, 06, invites consideration of how modern institutions, with their constant restructurings, delayerings, and subcontracting are generating ever greater inequality, both material and social. People are deprived of several aspects of connectedness:- a secure sense of self, a sense of being anchored in social relationships outside themselves, and a degree of competence and autonomy. The skilled elite do well, but for many the changes have brought a heightened anxiety. Used as a management tool, this intensifies stress, where people do not know what is, or may be expected of them. A result is the 'spectre of uselessness', as jobs are outsourced or automated, and long working hours become a status symbol. A prized quality, potential, is another trap, a subjective quality which can foster ageism.

Migrants and slaves.

Managing Labour Migration in the Twenty-First Century, P. Martin et al, Yale Univ. Press 06. Labour is becoming a significant export from many developing countries, especially Mexico and the Philippines, and a major source of income for the countries-of-origin via remittances. While the fastest growing channels have been illicit, Governments try to maintain one labour market and set of rights, but there is no way to balance this with the flow of illegal entrants. The longer term-solution is to help better the country-of- origin conditions and reduce the flow naturally.

International Labour Review, Vol. 145/1-2, M. Ruhs examines the case for temporary migration programmes in international migration policy, as being both practical and sensitive. Key policy considerations are suggested.

E. B. Kapstein, INSEAD, Foreign Affairs, Jan-Feb 07, considers that the slave trade is flourishing because current economic and official sanctions on it insufficient and provide too many incentives to the slavers. The trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, also contributes to the criminalisation of the world's economy and to the continuation of official corruption. The US has taken a promising lead by its Trafficking in Victims Protection Act (TVPA) 2003. This includes "watch lists" of several tiers according to the efforts being made by the countries listed. The US and allies are more focused on the war on terror, and have preferred to target the demand and supply side of the trade rather than pressure governments of countries of origin. Policies tried by some of the EU states indicate that demand-or supply-side measures are not successful. Naming and shaming slave traders and their supporting governments is a promising alternative.

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