**K. Goldman Schuyler, J.E. Baugher, K. Jironet (Eds.):
Creative Social Change: Leadership for a Healthy World
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More balanced and sustainable growth for our societies has been in the centerpoint of many discussions and initiatives, from UN strategy development (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals introduced in 2015) and World Economic Forum in Davos (2016) to regional and local initiatives like increasing social entrepreneurship, Transition Towns movement or many other sustainable community development activities. These initiatives seek answers to the global unsustainability crisis as does “Creative Social Change: Leadership for a Healthy World”. The latter takes a systemic approach by bringing together theoretical principles and frameworks with concrete cases focusing on the broad understanding of health, where *healthy* equals sustaining life and contributing to our physiological, mental, emotional, spiritual balance. Healthy mind, healthy organisation, healthy community- these notions are deeply rooted in understanding the nature of the Human being, the very nature of Nature itself and the interlinks between.

The world is discussed from a holistic, ecological view where the aim is to create a healthy environment not only for people but for all living beings. Even the design of the book follows metaphorically the growing of a tree, from the Ground to the Plant, from scientific foundation to the fruit of practice.

In the first section of the book, some of the most eminent social scientists (Margaret Wheatley, Otto Schrammer, Edgar Schein, Robert Quinn, Peter Senge) open up the dialogical discussion of organizational and societal change, addressing core issues like “how to create a world that endures and nourishes all life” (p. 29). Looking into theoretical principles gives the reader knowledge, understanding and inspiration for more holistic approach.

Understanding the concepts and theoretical underpinnings of organisational change does not necessarily mean, that leaders and change makers can implement those concepts in their own organisations and settings, because today’s socio-economic and ecological challenges

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have become increasingly complex and wicked. Practical questions arise and they are usually context-specific, sometimes detailed, sometimes vague and ill-defined, creating insecurity and doubt about the outcome of a somewhat experimental engagement into transformational processes. To assist in planning the change, the second section of the book looks into leadership ethics (*Use It or Lose It*), investigates ways of identifying appropriate indicators for measuring societal and environmental health (*Leadership for the Greater Good*) and looks at different dimensions of leader types and methodologies how to approach leader identity issues (*Developing relational leadership in Africa*). The third section- *Seeds and Plants: Local Case Studies*- contains 6 case studies from Bangladesh, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, Rwanda and the United States. These cases illustrate, among others, value-driven, ecologically rooted leadership approaches and “deep-democracy” practices.

Overall, the book attempts a more holistic approach to the challenges we are facing today. For example, the issue of climate change and it deniers brings into focus also different argumentation for and against climate change, but the book seeks more deeper questioning (p. 169). The debate is not about climate change *per se* but about more wider impact of the human race on Earth (if You can image a wider impact that climate change really). The question is not about proving or failing to prove the reasons behind climate change, the question is to look at our life-style in connection to the rest of the world and its beings. Overwhelming injustice, abuse and neglect does not only corrupt the parts of the natural world we have used to see as a resource for our wishes and desires. It corrupts our very souls and hearts, alienating us not only from nature, from other species and other human beings but also from our Selves, our true purpose in Life.

A transformation of our organisations, our communities, hence ourselves is not based on a ready-made formula, it is a unique, tailor-made process in every single case the book discusses. Yet, it offers an inspiring roadmap through different theoretical scaffolds, fields, sectors and good examples that provide enough justification and encouragement to start the journey of Change.

The book attempts to reach a deep personal contact with the leaders of the future by looking into critical dimensions that form the basis of transformation for more sustainable societies, namely the very meaning of our lives, altruistic mission which connects our own satisfaction and purpose in life with well-being of other people and all beings on Earth. The authors question mechanical, instrumental change-making approaches and tools, that often bring merely cosmetic tuning to the ill-functioning systems and seek the solutions starting from foundational layers- our worldviews, identities, values and beliefs.

It is remarkable that the editor in her introduction, compares healthy environment to a metaphor of Home for all creatures, all life on Earth, where Love prevails. This provides food for thought that societal change does not necessarily have to be a journey of sacrifices and difficulties but it can be viewed as a inspirational and exciting way back Home, to our true nature and purpose.