PSYCHOLOGY AND THE WORLD OF WORK

Also by David A. Statt

PSYCHOLOGY: MAKING SENSE
THE CONCISE DICTIONARY OF PSYCHOLOGY
THE CONCISE DICTIONARY OF MANAGEMENT

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE WORLD OF WORK

DAVID A. STATT

M
MACMILLAN

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To Bert Cooper
who taught me most
about the meaning of work

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Preface

When you tell your students that you learn more from them than they do from you, they tend to look at each other and smile. Nevertheless every experienced teacher knows that it's true. This book is the product of what I have learned during the past five years of teaching in the Edinburgh University Management School. My hope is that it might therefore be user-friendly for both teachers and students, with teachers finding the coverage and detail they require and students the level of explanation and writing style.

Each chapter has been designed to stand by itself, so that chapters may be read out of sequence if teachers so desire. At the same time there should be a cumulative learning gain in reading the book all the way through, whether in sequence or not, as familiarity grows (aided by cross-referencing) with the most important themes and ideas.

The book has a psychodynamic orientation, most explicitly set out in Chapter 6: 'The "unconscious" at work', but also informing the discussion of many other areas such as motivation, leadership, mental health, selection, learning and the role of women. The perception of time is also used as a means of integrating a great deal of diverse research. 'The time dimension' is the specific topic of Chapter 4 but it is also used throughout the book as a running motif to help illuminate some familiar material in a rather unusual way.

I would like to thank my publishing editor, Stephen Rutt, for suggesting this book to me. It turned out to be more absorbing and enjoyable to write than I had anticipated! Finally I would like to record a huge debt of gratitude to my wife Judith who not only typed every word of this manuscript but improved it with some tactful editing of my more ill-advised comments and phrasing. The final product is my responsibility alone.

Edinburgh

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