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Review of *Social Protection, Economic Growth and Social Change: Goals, Issues and Trajectories in China, India, Brazil and South Africa*. James Midgley and David Piachaud (Eds.). Reviewed by Tanusha Raniga.

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Although the book is quite comprehensive, some of the more important recent developments could have been given more attention. Ironically, perhaps, the volume may over-emphasize economic productivity and put too little focus on the social and community aspects of development. Social integration, identified by the 1995 World Summit as one of the 3 pillars of social development, is largely ignored and does not even appear as a term in the index. There is also relatively little attention to environment and sustainability, a theme that will feature centrally in the United Nations Post-2015 agenda.

Overall, however, this is an important book that adds significantly to social development theory and practice. It provides excellent background for rethinking social development, the priority theme for the United Nations Commission for Social Development 2015-2016. James Midgley has once again enriched the social development knowledge base and produced a book that is a "must read" for scholars, students and practitioners in the field of development.

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James Midgley & David Piachaud (Eds.), *Social Protection, Economic Growth and Social Change: Goals, Issues and Trajectories in China, India, Brazil and South Africa*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd., (2013), 296 pages, \$120.60 (hardback).

Two decades ago a series of epochal events began to change the socio-political and economic landscape of the world. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 coincided with the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in China, the return to democracy in Chile and the demise of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, economic liberalization in India in 1991 and the end of apartheid in April 1994 in South Africa marked the rise of civil society and democratic movements, as well as the emergence of a borderless one-globe market. In contemporary times, as vast power is concentrated in the hands of a few multinational corporations, the question remains about how individuals, families and communities can educate and organize themselves to protect their health needs, livelihoods, homes, neighborhoods and environment. Social protection policy has historically

been accepted as important public policy to ensure the basic minimum quality of life for citizens and ideally contribute to achieving a more equitable resource and income distribution in society. Nation states in both the Global North and Global South have historically debated the human rights and liberatory function as opposed to the dependency and economically viable function of social protection policy. In the same breath, social workers have witnessed models of the welfare state shift and weaken as market forces are captured by consumerism, greed and business interests in both regions with implications for how to reform or construct social protection systems.

Midgley and Piachaud's book, based on a symposium held at the London School of Economics in 2012, offers scholars, students and social policy advocates an eminently readable, thought provoking overview of the historical development, current goals and future prospects of social protection policy in China, India, Brazil and South Africa. Piachaud and Midgely, two esteemed social policy analysts, set the introductory tone to this book and acknowledge that the challenges of rapid urbanization, fast economic growth and social change within each of these transitional nation states have implications for social protection policy forms; these challenges form the central premise of this book.

Parts two to five deliberate the historical developments of social protection policies, the current trends and approaches and the future prospects of social protection policy in China, India, Brazil and South Africa respectively. In addition to offering a comprehensive, engaging account, the chapter contributors share a conceptual synergy of their respective country's transition to a market economy which dramatically shifted the developments of social protection, the expansion of strategies and the *new* demands on the welfare system as well as *new* risks and vulnerability that have emerged. In particular, it was interesting to note the similar suggestions put forth by Zhu who writes on the context of China, Mutaatkar from India, Bastagli and Soares from Brazil as well as Kruger from South Africa that call on their respective governments to restore the rights-based approach to social protection and move beyond short-term and survival strategies for the poor to focus on long-term strategies that is required for a comprehensive social protection policy.

Another important but equally complex and interesting issue raised by Midgley (p. 17) is that “social policy scholars have not paid sufficient attention to social protection’s economic function.” This book no doubt makes an important contribution to comparative analysis in social work education, in particular courses on social policy and legislation and international social work. We live in complex times where citizens around the world have been seeking a new social protection and economic compact in which their individual and collective safety nets are not surrendered to the state’s power-politics or profit-driven markets. In the final chapter of the book, Piachaud and Midgely challenge us to pay attention to the emancipatory function of social protection that has largely been neglected by social policy makers; that is, “by enhancing human and social capital and by maintaining aggregate economic demand, social protection can promote economic growth.” As future social policy advocates, the question remains, will we rise to this challenge?

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Dawn Belkin Martinez & Ann Fleck-Henderson (Eds.), *Social Justice in Clinical Practice: A Liberation Health Framework for Social Work*. Routledge (2014), 218 pages, \$48.95 (paperback), \$155.00 (hardcover).

Social Justice in Clinical Practice includes 11 inspiring illustrations of liberation health practice in action and an introduction to the theory and practice of the liberation health model. Belkin Martinez describes the liberation health social work model as “a broader vision of what social work should be” and locates it as both an extension of “past radical traditions” and an attempt to “develop new paradigms for social work appropriate for our current crisis” (p. 4). Given the current social, economic and political crises that compromise health and well-being for much of the population, this edited book is both timely and necessary. It is a practical answer and challenge to the micro–macro divide, not only in social work, but also in sociology and related fields, bringing together a focus