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The Pandemic Forces Us Back to Our Roots: Book Reviews Introduction

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Pandemic Forces Us Back to Our Roots

Irene Papoulis

This year's wonderful group of reviews begins with a book that predates the pandemic and assumes that students fully exist as bodies in the room (Wenger, reviewed by Overstreet). How much has changed since Wenger's thoughtful reflections about yoga practices in teaching writing!

By now, of course, we have all learned to work on screens, sometimes with our students present only in their little squares. However, that new reality points us as well to how *little* has changed. The Expanded Perspectives that AEPL is founded on are more necessary now than ever. As we exist in our current era of technology, we have even more of an imperative to continue to honor our students' bodies and their lived experiences in our classrooms. Our students, most of whom "live in a world where they never had a paper-centric sense of privacy," (Knudsen, reviewing Miller) have a profound need for guidance on how to navigate productive relationships with their inner selves, with each other, and with the world.

These books offer a range of ways to help students do that, even while online (Borgman and McArdle, reviewed by Crozier). They offer new ways to cultivate creativity (Dively, reviewed by Williams), and to delve deeper into the knowledge of self and others that is fostered by autoethnography (Jackson and McKinney, reviewed by A. Scott). They also invite us to move forward by looking backward, to the lessons that await as we contemplate the history of progressive education (Suhor, reviewed by S. Scott).

It is heartening to know that the work of AEPL persists, and *will* persist, through struggles of all kinds. We all live in our bodies, and the more we can encourage our students to remember and manage that fact by approaching their own, and others', mysteries with compassion and ideally a clear philosophical foundation (Smith, reviewing Nelson), the more we will all be able to continue to thrive.

