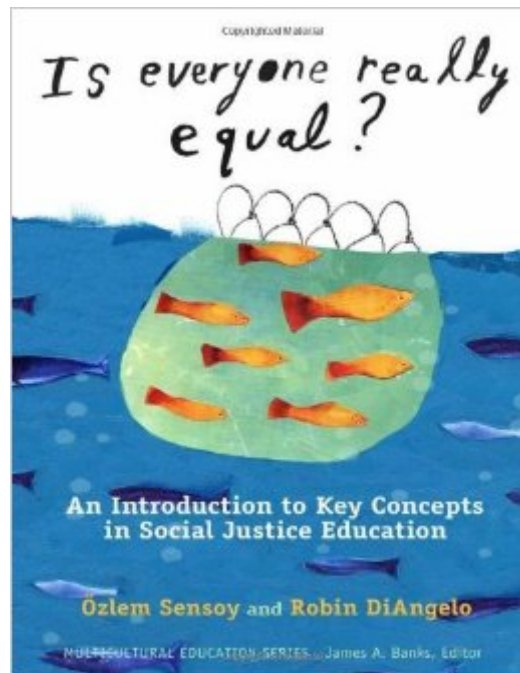


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# Is Everyone Really Equal?: An Introduction To Key Concepts In Social Justice Education (Multicultural Education Series)



## Synopsis

This practical handbook will introduce readers to social justice education, providing tools for developing a critical social justice literacy and for taking action towards a more just society. Accessible to students from high school through graduate school, this book offers a collection of detailed and engaging explanations of key concepts in social justice education, including critical thinking, socialization, group identity, prejudice, discrimination, oppression, power, privilege, and White supremacy. Based on extensive experience in a range of settings in the United States and Canada, the authors address the most common stumbling blocks to understanding social justice. They provide recognizable examples, scenarios, and vignettes illustrating these concepts. This unique resource has many user-friendly features, including definition boxes for key terms, stop boxes to remind readers of previously explained ideas, perspective check boxes to draw attention to alternative standpoints, a glossary, and a chapter responding to the most common rebuttals encountered when leading discussions on concepts in critical social justice. There are discussion questions and extension activities at the end of each chapter, and an appendix designed to lend pedagogical support to those newer to teaching social justice education.

Sensoy and DiAngelo's book sings with insight, clarity, and humanity. This is a brilliant primer to help us consider what it means to think critically and to act for justice.

—Bill Bigelow, Curriculum editor, *Rethinking Schools* magazine

I commend the direction of this book that addresses concepts such as social and institutional power, socialization, and oppression rather than framing social and political inequality as the consequences of behavioral problems and cultural misunderstandings. The approach the authors have taken supports teachers and their students in rethinking the ways in which the problems of inequality have been normalized as everyday practices. The book will help teachers to rethink inequality in systemic terms and to find opportunities for taking action at any moment.

—Carol Schick, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Regina

The most accessible book on social justice I have ever read! The authors speak truth to power and in language we can all understand. I can't wait to use this text. The authors demonstrate that important concepts about social justice and political change can be both understandable and engaging. This is a huge contribution to the field.

—Mara Sapon-Shevin, Professor, School of Education, Syracuse University

This timely book offers a reader-friendly, unflinching approach to answering those questions on social justice that people are often afraid to ask. The authors provide clear definitions, recognizable examples, robust counterpoints, and thought-provoking activities. All critical educators need to get this text in the hands of their students.

—Darren E. Lund, Professor, Faculty of Education, University of

Calgary—zlem Sensoy is an assistant professor of education at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada. Robin DiAngelo is an assistant professor of education at Westfield State University, Westfield, Massachusetts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the best textbooks currently in existence for an intro to the academic discipline of Social Justice. It is well-put together, easily accessible and makes complex and nuanced arguments clear and understandable to students. However, it is fundamentally flawed in its presentation and foundations. The arguments within the book are never presented as arguments, but as facts that one must accept wholeheartedly and without question. Going so far as to say that even questioning key concepts in the book is a manifestation of racism. The author's underpinning reliance on logical fallacies made me grimace and shudder. Even when I agreed with many of the book's conclusions, I found that most arguments, in summation, are based on nothing more than an appeal to authority. I left this book and the class I took it for with little respect for Social Justice as a legitimate academic

discipline that encourages free thought and open debate.

My husband read this book for a class on teaching/learning. His review follows, and now I can't wait to read it! Think this is a great read for anyone. Despite having some concepts that, as a white male in America, may be difficult to swallow, it is a vital scholarly-written book that illustrates the difficulties faced in eliminating oppression, while giving examples of strategies to help facilitate a more just America.

It seems to me that many reviewers here are rating this book not by the quality of the ideas but by the extent to which they agree with them. This is a problematic, anti-intellectual way to judge anything. As any critical thinker will agree, the ideas and concepts are well-argued, cogent and supported with facts. To disagree with the authors would be to assume the position of the willfully ignorant, myopic individuals standing so close to the bird cage (page 47) as to only see single bars and ask why doesn't the bird just fly out. Which is to say not fully understand the issues (white privilege, institutional racism, oppression, etc) because you don't have a clear picture. By reading this book, you were supposed to learn how to take a step back, notice how the bars actually make up a cage and gain a clearer, more comprehensive understanding of issues at hand. You missed the point.

The authors of this book assume that racism is rampant in America, whites are the primary cause of prejudice, and continually build arguments through that lens. If you agree and want moral support for your position, you will love this book. If you want to learn multiple viewpoints then I recommend finding a book written by an open-minded author, who avoids deception in building arguments that appear to be logical at first glance. They do it well, so I'm giving it 2 stars based on that alone. A good instructor could find use for this book as one of multiple sources on the subject. If your instructor uses this as their only source, they are probably pushing their own agenda, rather than encouraging open-minded intellectual debate on the topic.

Starts with a section about critical thinking, which is puzzling considering that the authors don't always use critical thinking themselves. This book could have potentially had merit, yet consistently displays massive gaps in logic. Most topics contain inconsistencies and falsehoods, making this a poor "introduction" textbook. A lot of the inaccuracies could've been fixed with a few minutes of research and some exercising of common sense. Trying to 'teach' social justice is dangerous because a lot of people don't know what it is, and many topics are easy to misunderstand. I can't

give this book more than 2 stars because the authors are a part of this group that doesn't fully understand the topics outlined in the table of contents. It needs significant rewriting in many areas to give a factual/neutral account of each topic and their intricacies.

The idea that only people who hold power can be sexist or racist comes from Black Supremacists of the 1960's. That in itself is a false and sexist/racist idea. It's a "Supremacist" belief and if it's in a public classroom the publishers should know we'll be contacting the media about it and raising awareness. Racism/sexism is NOT defined by who holds power. It's defined by actions and beliefs. (see attached image)

Ridiculous liberal spew.

It explains concepts pretty good. One thing to improve the book is to help readers find terminology much easier.

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