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BOOK REVIEW-Transformative Teaching Around the World: Stories of Cultural Impact , Technology Integration and Innovative Pedagogy

Apr 2, 2022 by **Michael F. Shaughnessy** EducationViews Senior Columnist

Title: Transformative Teaching Around the World: Stories of Cultural Impact , Technology Integration and Innovative Pedagogy

Editors: Curtis J. Bonk and Meina Zhu

Publisher : Routledge

Pages : 298

This book, edited by Curtis Bonk and Meina Zhu brings together 44 stellar contributors from around the world to enlighten, challenge and educate us.

The book is divided into eight different sections which explore and examine certain realms in the field of instructional technology.

Section 1 deals with “Personal Transformations” . The authors in this section examine the energy, the endless possibilities, the questions that matter and end with a section on the pedagogy of creativity and student empowerment.

Section 2 examines innovative education and metacognitive issues, creativity blossoming issues, nurturing students and lastly empowering students. The chapters here are bright, positive and enlightening!

Teaching with Technology is section 3 and motivation, Zoom (and its use for interactive writing instruction- a sorely needed realm) and of course R2D2 is included as is the role of experience.

Pandemic Practices in Section 4 leads us on a journey that we all seem to be taking and that is recovering, reflecting, and refreshing after a brutal few Covid years.

Five chapters in Section 5 address English education and the need for collaboration. We all know this is needed- yet trying to find the time is a challenge. Both student collaboration as well as teacher collaboration is explored.

Section 6-Active Learning Strategies attempts to bring some activity and we have contributors from Finland making their mark in this realm. A chapter on making the connection from local to global is included and in a sense this is what Bonk and Zhu are trying to do.

Section 7 takes us to Global Education and 5 scholars share their wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise here.

AND of course, there are challenges. Cancer, Covid, and communication (or the lack thereof) are summarily addressed and these issues cannot be skimmed over. Educators are attempting to educate, while remediating. Educators are scrambling to continue learning while coping with a learning curve . We want equitable learning but there are inequitable classrooms and schools and inequitable trainings and professional developments.

There is just about something in this book for everyone. There are scattered gems, insights, challenges and simply interesting observations. And the book is reader friendly and the chapters are short but chock full of anecdotes and stories and each author is engaging in his or her own manner.

Curtis Bonk in his own inimitable style has drawn together a great bunch of scholars and has worked with Meina Zhu to bring us a refreshing gold mine of stories to enchant and entertain. This is an enjoyable yet entertaining and educative text. The editors should be commended!

