

Work

A Very Short Introduction

By Stephen Fineman

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- What do members of your group regard as real work, and why?
- There is much talk about an absence of the work ethic in some sectors of society, and generational differences. Is this a fair observation? Does it matter?
- Maslow (page 11) makes much of 'self-actualisation' at work? How realistic is this?
- A top league footballer and investment banker get paid millions; a nurse or social worker get very little. A fair society?
- Have trade unions outlived their usefulness?
- Careers are supposed to be planned and progressive. What are your group members' stories about their own careers?
- Should we equip ourselves and our children for boundaryless, portfolio, careers? How can it be done?
- Is the idea of work/life balance something of a myth, especially in recessionary times?
- Gender divisions in work – still the natural order of things?
- What ever happened to the 'new man'?
- Women wanting to progress often hit glass ceilings and glass walls. What can be done?
- McJobs are now pervasive in the high street and beyond. Is this cause for concern or celebration?
- Is presenteeism at work now the new evil?
- Downshifter tell seductive tales about their new life. Would you downshift if you could? Why?
- What is your group's view of the picture on page 77, '*Putting on the smile that sells*'.
- Emotional intelligence – the key ingredient for success at work?
- Why is bullying and harassment at work so difficult to eradicate?
- We are, it is said, all now virtual workers. Where do you stand on this contention?
- 'NEETs should nag at our collective conscience'. Why? What has gone wrong?
- Retirement rhetoric is often upbeat: 'eternal Sundays'. How would you describe the difference faces of retirement?

Other books by this author

Organizing Age (Oxford University Press, 2011)

(with Y. Gabriel, & D. Sims) *Organizing and Organizations*, 4th Edition (Sage, 2010)

Understanding Emotion at Work (Sage, 2003)

Emotion in Organizations (Ed.) (Sage, 2000).

Further Reading

R. Hodson, and T. A. Sullivan, *The Social Organization of Work* (Wadsworth, 2012)