

Work-Based Learning, 2008

by Raelin, J. A.

Reviewed by Dr Paul Gibbs

This new edition of Raelin well received book retains the discursive link between academic exploration and the pragmatism of the workplace. In it Raelin articulates an updated vision for management development that is at once intellectually sound but also contemporary in approach. Its purpose is clearly to encourage and to initiate the engagement of learning in the workplace and is more concerned with this than any academic qualification that might be associated with such an endeavour. Its value to students is as background reading.

The work is ethnocentrically American but does offer the reader who is new to the concept and the virtues of work based learning useful insights and appreciation. It would be particularly valuable to work based practitioners and is ideal airport travel read. It would also prove to be a simulating text for discussion with employers for those looking to develop business (if you could get them to read the 358 pages of the book).

I would recommend this book to those thinking about embarking on work based studies and to employees who are looking to both support and benefit from work based learners in their organisations. For the more academically minded the style might take time to come to terms with but the effort is worthwhile.

Published by Jossey-Bass