

Book reviews: can I share this with you?

Dr Leanne McIver

Dear Reader

Recently, while reading another journal, I spotted a book review editor taking the opportunity to write directly to readers, and acknowledging how unusual that is compared to their traditional 'in-the-shadows' role. When I took up the role of book review editor for SJRCC, I decided to take a leaf out of their book, to introduce myself and outline my hopes for the future of book reviews in SJRCC.

I've taken up the role of Book Reviews Editor with great excitement, because books are one of my first loves, and I'm always keen to share the joy of them, as well as to look with a more critical eye at what works well and less well for all of us as individual readers. That to me is the purpose of this book reviews section, which should (in keeping with the academic nature of a peer reviewed journal) include text books and academic writing, but should also include reviews of other writing on the topic closest to our hearts – residential child care.

It is with that in mind that I invite you to consider whether there are books which have particularly struck you. Have you read anything recently which has really made you think, or which you've been keen to discuss with colleagues and friends? Are you a student of social work or residential child care who's been asked to read something as part of your course, and would like to share your thoughts on it?

If you have an idea for a book review, or would be interested in being contacted to review new books in the future, please do let me know – you can contact me at sjrcc@strath.ac.uk. Similarly, if you have colleagues, friends, or young people in your life who might like to share their thoughts on relevant books, I'd love to hear from them – please spread the word!

I look forward to learning from you about the books I should read (or avoid), and to sharing that learning with the community of SJRCC readers!

About the author

Leanne is a Research Associate in the Improving Care Experiences hub at CELCIS. She works mainly on evaluation, research, and research support in relation to children and young people who are looked after away from home. Leanne comes from a background in education and health services research and evaluation, and joined CELCIS in 2015.