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978-0-521-64540-9 - Changing Classes: School Reform and the New Economy

Martin Packer

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Changing Classes

How do schools influence the kind of person a child becomes? *Changing Classes* tells the story of a small, poor, ethnically mixed school district in Michigan's rust belt, a community in turmoil over the announced closing of a nearby auto assembly plant. As teachers and administrators began to find ways to make schooling more relevant to working-class children, two large-scale school reform initiatives swept into town: the governor's "marketplace" reforms and the National Science Foundation's "State Systemic Initiative." All this is set against the backdrop of the transformation to a global, post-Fordist economy. The result is an account of the complex linkages at work as society structures the development of children to adulthood.

Martin Packer is Associate Professor of Psychology at Duquesne University.

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MARTIN PACKER

Duquesne University



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What is at stake is our vision of the kinds of human beings we would hope Americans to be in the last years of the twentieth and the first years of the twenty-first centuries, and of the kinds of education that will help bring those human beings into existence.

Lawrence A. Cremin, *Popular Education and Its Discontents*. Quoted in the report “Research and the Renewal of Education,” from the National Academy of Education, 1991.

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Series Foreword

This series for Cambridge University Press is becoming widely known as an international forum for studies of situated learning and cognition.

Innovative contributions are being made by anthropology, by cognitive, developmental, and cultural psychology, by computer science, by education, and by social theory. These contributions are providing the basis for new ways of understanding the social, historical, and contextual nature of the learning, thinking, and practice that emerges from human activity. The empirical settings of these research inquiries range from the classroom to the workplace, to the high technology office, and to learning in the streets and in other communities of practice.

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Roy Pea
John Seely Brown
Christian Heath

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Additional information on this project and related work can be found at my Web site: www.duq.edu/liberalarts/gradpsych/packer.html

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