

NEOLIBERAL SELFHOOD

Psychological constructs – such as emotion regulation, creativity, grit, growth mindset, lifelong learning, and whole child – are appealing as aspirations and outcomes. Researchers, policy makers, and educators are likely to endorse and accept them as ways to make sense of students and inform pedagogical decision-making. Few critically interrogate these constructs as they are associated with students' academic achievement, psychological well-being, civic virtue, and career readiness. However, this book shows how these constructs become entangled in a neoliberal vision of selfhood, which is tied to market prescriptions and is thus associated with problematic ethical, psychological, moral, and economic consequences. The chapters draw attention to the ideological entanglement in order to facilitate conversations about selfhood in schooling policy and practices.

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