

THE WORK AND LIVES OF TEACHERS

The Work and Lives of Teachers offers a simple but original argument: that the cultural attitudes toward the teaching profession measurably influence how students perform. Cohen uses both ethnographic portraits and personal accounts from thirteen teachers – from Finland, Taiwan, Greece, Azerbaijan, France, Chile, South Africa, Siberia, Brazil, Romania, Philippines, Norway, and the United States – to explore the meaning and value of teaching worldwide. This study includes the ways in which teachers in these countries are educated, recruited, compensated, and perceived by parents, students, administrators, and the culture at large. Teachers' voices, so rarely heard in international educational studies, are front and center here, highlighting the daily work in the classroom and the pleasures and struggles of engaging in the teaching profession in 2016. The lesson, briefly stated, is that societies are only as good as the people who teach in them.

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The Work and Lives of Teachers

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Rosetta Marantz Cohen

Smith College



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For Ruth, Samuel and Elizabeth
Great teachers: past, present, and future

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