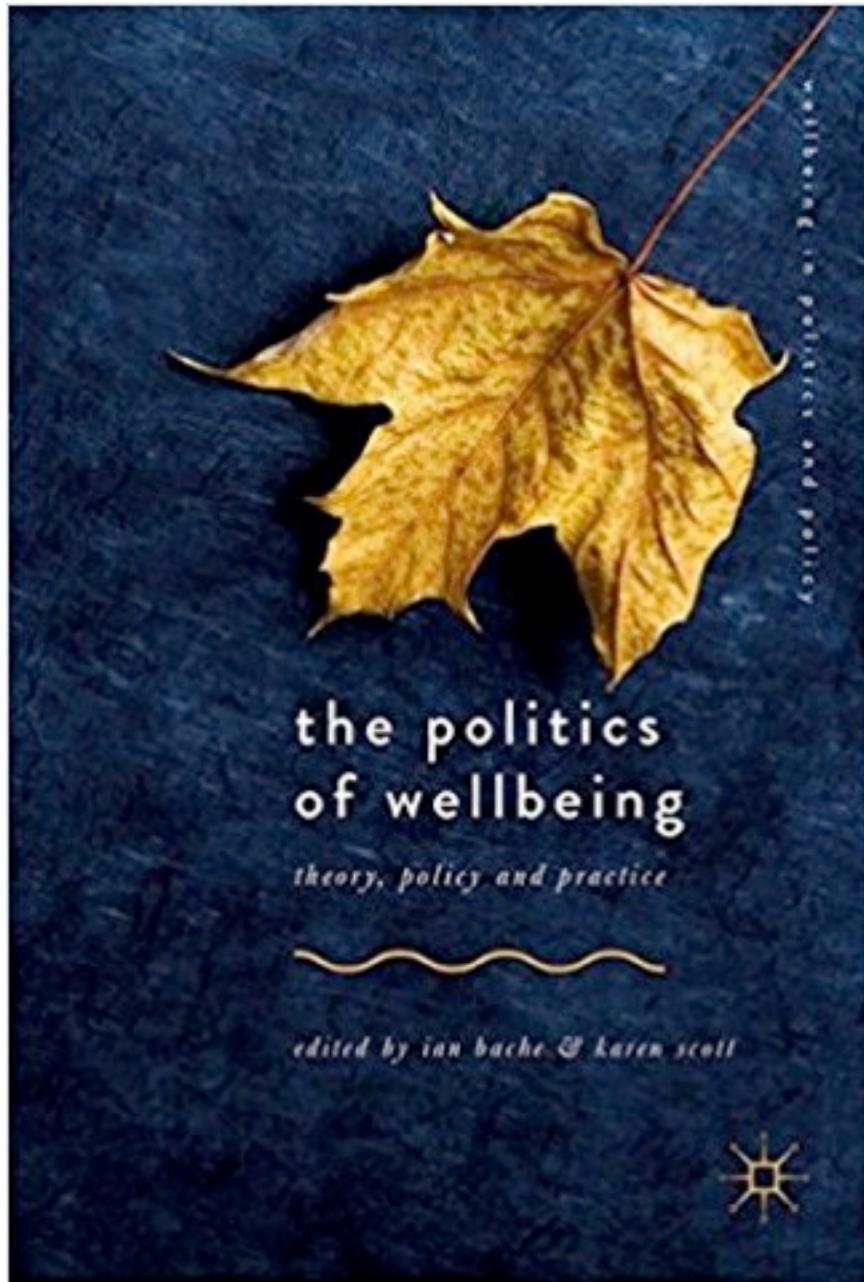




Teaching The Good Life

Karen Scott

Exeter University Cornwall Campus



Jules Evans

The End of History and the
Invention of Happiness

Kathryn Ecclestone

Therapeutic Entrepreneurialism
and the Undermining of
Expertise and Evidence in the
Education Politics of Wellbeing

- How does the university imagine itself?
- What are its core values and priorities and how does this impact on staff and students and local community?
- Institutional cultures approach to wellbeing

- The Contemplative University - University of Virginia
- Positive Universities –Buckingham Uni
- Healthy Universities Network
- What is **The Good University?**

'Student wellbeing' puts the idea of students as a catch all category, and superimposes a false homogeneity on a group of individuals and communities. 'Student' becomes the predominant category, rather than 'person' who happens to be studying, as well as doing and experiencing lots of other things.

Who is this person? What is their background? How do they connect with this place, these people, this institutional culture?

Where are their opportunities to critically reflect on this?



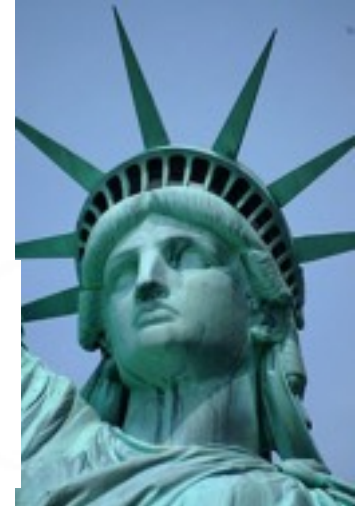


The Good Life

Ἀγορά



AMERICAN
DREAM



Critical practical philosophy of wellbeing

- What do we know about wellbeing?
- How can/do we know it?
- What is the meaning of what we know about wellbeing, for us, for others, for the world?
- How should we act on this?
- What sort of values and skills do we need to act?

Not everyone teaches The Good Life!

- Social identity formation important for wellbeing, linked to politics disciplinary community and to profession.
- Building community of learning and practice
- Critical friendship
- Intellectual inquiry first and people can then link this in whatever way they chose to their own personal growth.

Summary

- Taking an institutional and place-based approach. Our wellbeing is embedded in institutions in place, wellbeing discussions should not just include personal wellbeing strategies, but be situated in political discussions about our educational policies and institutions and their impact.
- Political philosophy discussions, a practical and critical theory tied to self reflection. Ancient Greek method!
- Embedding wellbeing in the content of what we teach – developing intellectual capabilities, and a sense of personal growth.
- Being OK with the challenge, the discomfort. Critical friendship groups.