

Book Review:

Restorative Justice Across the East and West

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Katherine van Wormer (Editor). 2008.
Restorative Justice Across the East and West
Taiwan: Casa Verde
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Katherine van Wormer is Professor of Social Work at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). Before she came to UNI she practiced alcoholism treatment for two years near Hamar, Norway. She has maintained ties with Norway and emphasizes Norwegian social policy and values throughout the 13 books that she has authored and co-authored. Among her most recent books are an introductory text, and texts on addiction treatment, and women and the criminal justice system. Restorative justice, anti-bullying school programs, and the impact of the natural environment are major themes of these works.

These themes are well represented in *Restorative Justice Across the East and the West*. Drawing on research on various restorative strategies for the victims of wrongdoing, this anthology includes writings from a wide range of countries in the East and the West including Japan, Korea, China, India, East Timor, Norway, Canada, and the United States. That restorative justice can serve as a bridge across the East and the West is a major argument of this volume. That we as citizens of one nation have a lot to learn from innovations developed in other nations is a second major theme.

The book is organized into three major divisions—micro, macro, and beyond macro. The micro-level contributions cover programs in Hong Kong for juvenile delinquents, youth justice in Norway (authored by the well-known restorative justice advocate, Ida Hyde), restorative work in the Asian American community, and strategies geared to women's victimization.

At the macro or community level, chapters cover community organization, community reparations globally, Japanese American reparations for mass incarcerations in World War II, relevant Chinese legal traditions, restorative developments in Timor Leste, cross-cultural perspectives, and a Gandhian approach.

The beyond-macro section should be of special interest to Europeans because of the environmental and spiritual dimensions that are explored in the three chapters that comprise this section.

All the chapters are well written and timely. Throughout the book, the principles of restorative justice are uniquely linked to concepts such as listening to the voice of the earth, feminism, the teachings of Gandhi and the Dalai Lama, and the values of social work. Highlights of the book that will be especially meaningful to persons who take a global perspective are: Hiranandani's discussion of the structural violence of poverty; Besthorn's presentation of the core elements of environmental restoration; Wong's personal narrative of his pioneering anti-bullying programs in Hong Kong; and van Wormer's discussion of Native American restorative traditions.

Taken as a whole, *Restorative Justice Across the East and the West* is a major contribution to the international literature on peace and reconciliation.