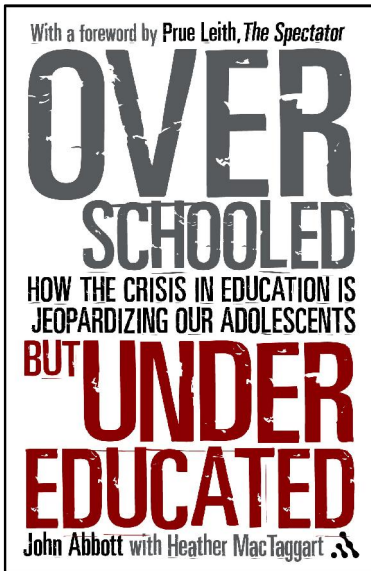


"This penetrating exploration burrows through to the heart of the malaise which has stifled so much education into the 21st century...this is not only a brilliant, lucid and erudite expose but also a provocative and bold manifesto for change. Dr. Jonathan Long, Principal, United World College of India



Overschooled but Undereducated

How the crisis in education is jeopardizing our adolescents

John Abbott with Heather MacTaggart. Foreword by Prue Leith.
January 2009 • 9781855396234 • \$27.95 • HB
(advance copies available now)

Looking at current educational policy John Abbott explains the need for transformational change in the education system and a drastic reassessment of outdated thinking. No political system is safe in this brilliant analysis of why the education system is failing, and how we can shake education out of its two-century's-old inertia.

"Abbott and MacTaggart use their findings to show how society's increasing concern about the well-being of adolescence is not to be rectified simply by more schools, ever more prescription about subject content, or more quantification dependent only on more examinations... **We have to transform ourselves quickly, or surely we will perish.**" Paul Cappon, President and CEO of the Canadian Council on Learning

"*Overschooled but Undereducated* argues that both common sense and science - specifically, new insights into how the brain develops - should **force us to overhaul our attitude** to those scary teenage aliens slamming doors and grunting... John Abbott is in his 60s. He has been passionately trying to make us see sense for 40 years. It is high time we listened" - Prue Leith, *The Spectator*

"This **remarkable** work, so **individualistic** and peppered with fascinating reminiscences and asides, deserves the widest possible readership. It is at the same time **profoundly scholarly** and **eminently accessible**. It is nothing less than a tour de force, and it is a **privilege to recommend it unreservedly.**" - Sir Gustav Nossal, Fellow of the Royal Society and Former President of the World Immunology Association, and of the Australian Academy of Science.

The basic function of education in all societies and at all times is to prepare the younger generation for the kind of adult life which that society values, and wishes to perpetuate.

By misunderstanding teenagers' instinctive need to do things for themselves, isn't society in danger of creating a system of schooling that so goes against the natural grain of the adolescent brain, that formal education ends up trivializing the very young people it claims to be supporting? By failing to keep up with appropriate research in the biological and social sciences, current educational systems continue to treat adolescence as a problem rather than an opportunity.

Synthesizing an array of research, gathered from many sources including a series of international conferences, *Overschooled but Undereducated* examines the increasing need to revolutionize the education system globally. It's simple: education has to be about preparing children to be good citizens – not merely successful pupils – and become adults who will thrive at unstructured tasks. In this lies society's best assurance of a positive future.

John Abbott is president of the 21st Century Learning Initiative, a transnational association of educational researchers and practitioners. Following a long career as a teacher and headteacher in England, John became director of Education 2000, spearheading nine community-wide education projects in the UK. He lectures around the world on new understandings about learning and is the author of several books.

Heather MacTaggart is the Executive Director of Classroom Connections in Canada, and has worked with John for four years across Canada from the Maritimes through to British Columbia.

For more information, interview or review requests, contact:

Jennifer Tighe • Marketing and Sales Executive Tel: +44 (0)20 7922 0925; Email: jtighe@continuumbooks.com

For more information on the 21st Century Learning Initiative please visit: www.21learn.org

The Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd

The Tower Building, 11 York Road, London SE1 7NX | 80 Maiden Lane, Suite 704, New York, NY 10038
Tel +44 (0)20 7922 0880 Fax +44 (0)20 7922 0881 Tel +1 212 953 5858 Fax +1 212 953 5944
Registered in England No. 3833148