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## Introduction to Reviews and Research of Note

# Introduction to reviews and research of note

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The power of corporations in today's society and on their members is undeniable. Corporate organizations can be conceived as political systems, which are able to articulate the interests of their various stakeholders on a micro level and the decisions of the governments including other commercial entities on a macro level. Scholars have examined numerous issues surrounding the power of corporations at an individual and societal level. The two books that have been reviewed in this issue contribute towards this ongoing debate and investigation. Both the books approach corporations and their manipulative capabilities from different angles.

*"Understanding Corporate Life"* edited by Philip Hancock and Andre Spicer, is a collection of essays which examines the pervasive power of organizations. The book provides insights about how corporate life can shape and influence our behaviors. Each of the 10 essays: technology, speed, aesthetics and aestheticization, space, time, globalization, community, identity, knowledge, and emotion, provide in-depth and critical understandings of the various facets of corporate life.

Kathryn Toelken, in her review, provides a brief but informative analysis of all the 10 essays. She comments on the current placement of the 10 chapters, their expressive and critical interpretation of corporate life, effective interweaving with historical philosophies, and ability to portray organizational paradoxes and contradictions. She applauds the efforts of all the authors with observations such as – *"Understanding Corporate Life* employs an aesthetic approach to wake the sleeper and challenge the student to remake corporate life into something more engaging and sustainable."

The second book, titled *"What Poetry Brings to Business"* by Clare Morgan with Kirsten Lange and Ted Buswick, discusses how we as leaders can influence corporate life. Clare Morgan illustrates how engagement with poetry broadens the mental mindset of corporate managers. She argues that reading poetry trains managers to emerge as sharpeners who are better at strategic thinking and in creative and ethical actions.

Dr Steven Taylor, in his review focuses attention on the positive factors of Morgan's views. He mentions how she incorporates the ideas of philosophers such as Wittgenstein and Socrates, poets such as Keats, and scientists and anthropologists such as Dissanayake to convince the reader of the usefulness of reading and appreciating poetry in executive development. Taylor feels, however, that Morgan fails to fully develop her arguments, though perhaps that might take another book. His review, advocates the need to be an active participant, thereby enlarging the scope of the book. Taylor's review strongly emphasizes how not just reading but also writing poetry, and creating art in other arenas like theater, jazz music, and painting, can be invaluable to executive development, and perhaps more important, can help feed a leader's passion for worthy causes in business and other worlds.