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Global Education Inc.: New policy networks and the neoliberal imaginary

Adriana Aubert<sup>1</sup>

1) University of Barcelona

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## Reviews (I)

Ball, S. (2012): *Global Education Inc.: New policy networks and the neoliberal imaginary*. New York: Routledge.

Stephen J. BALL, Professor of Sociology of Education in the University of London, in his work *Global Education INC.* examines the new global education policy using the methods of edu-business, neo-liberal advocacy networks and policy entrepreneurs and of social enterprises, and new philanthropy related to this educative field.

Ball points out the commodification and globalization of education and education policy in terms of development, quality, access, curriculum materials, and pedagogic software on the one hand, and policy ideas like inspections, leadership, school choice and accountability on the other hand. However the book is not a critique or an abstract discussion on neo-liberalism, but a reflection about how it is promoted and how it works in educative contexts.

The author analyzes the policy networks as a new way of sharing conceptions of social problems and its solutions using different ways of relationship like sponsorship or contracting. Ball defends that this is a new way of governance that is influencing western education policies by its privatization.

Ball focuses on the role in education policies of new philanthropy, in which the givers are involved directly in the projects that they choose for investing. This situation leads philanthropists to use enterprise models and market-based solutions for social issues like education, a field in which those private providers are now more involved than ever

These and other aspects examined in the book turn education policies into assets that are buying and selling, like a 'multinational edu-business', a new form of education policy that needs to be analyzed in depth.

Ball's work is a crucial book that takes the first step in this task, offering a very relevant point of view in new education policies that has a great interest to researchers, social and education policy analyst and students of education policy.