

Work Stress. The Making of a Modern Epidemic. David Wainright and Michael Calnan. Buckingham, UK: Open University Press, 2002, pp. 240, £ 17.99 (PB) ISBN: 0.

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**Work Stress. The Making of a Modern Epidemic.: *David Wainright and Michael Calnan.* Buckingham, UK: Open University Press, 2002, pp. 240, £17.99 (PB) ISBN: 0 335 20707 3, £55.00. (HB) ISBN: 0 335 20208 1.** 

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Stress is a quick and convenient explanation for many health problems these days, from a heart attack to a pimple on the nose. In this timely book, David Wainright and Michael Calnan present a critical analysis of what they term the ‘work stress epidemic’. In doing so they present a challenge to the work stress literature and make a number of salient points and suggestions about the individualized nature of the work stress phenomenon, before outlining a new approach to researching the topic. This is to be welcomed, but in the later half of the book they seem also to challenge their own approach by introducing a theoretical position which is as individualized as the one they are trying to replace.

In chapter one they address the popular discourse of work stress and give themselves the task of unpacking the ‘ambiguity’ at the heart of...

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