

**The Lives of Campus Custodians:
Insights into Corporatization and Civic Disengagement in the Academy**
by Peter M. Magolda

“...failing to recognize and benefit from the wisdom of the life-experiences of custodians represent squandered learning opportunities to the detriment of the entire campus community.”

--Peter M. Magolda

The Lives of Campus Custodians poses fundamental questions about the moral implications of the corporatization of higher education and its impact on its lowest paid and most vulnerable employees whose unremarked labor is so essential to the smooth running of their campuses.

The Lives of Campus Custodians also:

- uncovers the lives and working conditions of custodians--a group of individuals who are usually rendered invisible on college campuses
- reveals equally invisible practices that frequently contradict a university's espoused values of inclusion and equity, and their profession that those on the margins are important members of the campus community.
- shines a light on a subculture neither decision-makers nor campus community members know much about, let alone understand the motivations and aspirations of those who perform this work
- exposes instances of intolerance, inequity, and injustices toward custodians

Peter Magolda raises such questions as:

- Are universities really inclusive?
- Does the academy still believe wisdom is exclusive to particular professions or classes of people?
- Is addressing service workers' concerns part of the mission of higher education?
- If universities profess to value education, why make it difficult for those on the margins, such as custodians, to “get educated”?

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