

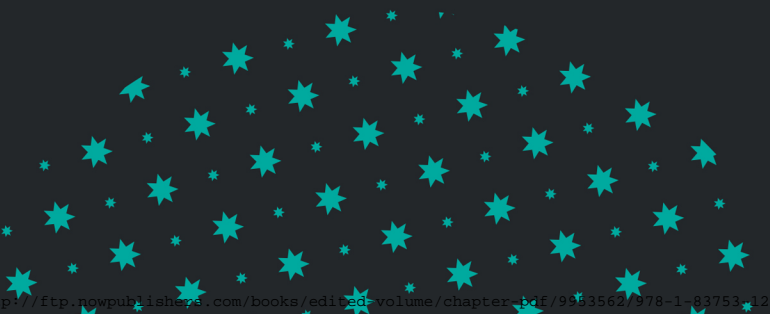


EMERALD POINTS

**DEVELOPING AND
IMPLEMENTING
TEACHING IN
SENSITIVE SUBJECT
AND TOPIC AREAS**

A Comprehensive Guide for
Professionals in FE and HE Settings

**WILLIAM McGOVERN
AIDAN GILLESPIE
TOBY BRANDON
ALISON McINNES**



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A Comprehensive Guide for
Professionals in FE and HE Settings

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United Kingdom – North America – Japan – India
Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Emerald Publishing, Floor 5, Northspring, 21-23 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4DL.

First edition 2024

Editorial matter and selection © 2024 William McGovern, Aidan Gillespie,
Toby Brandon, and Alison McInnes.
Individual chapters © 2024 The authors.
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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-83753-127-1 (Print)
ISBN: 978-1-83753-126-4 (Online)
ISBN: 978-1-83753-128-8 (Epub)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*In loving memory of Kay Brown and Jo Cunningham, two inspirational
Social Workers who sensitively championed Social Justice.*

Alison

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FOREWORD

The very nature of sensitive issues makes them challenging and anxiety provoking for academic staff to deliver. Few of us feel equipped to wrangle with the thorniest topics in public health, but doing so in a classroom can be even more confronting. We want to translate complex issues into accessible material for an increasingly diverse range of students, without losing the essence of the challenging human experiences those issues contain. ‘Key Concepts and Concerns of Teaching Sensitive Subjects and Topics’ supports this journey by providing chapters exploring a wide range of commonly relevant themes.

A wide-ranging body of experienced authors bring their expertise to subjects like culture, colonialism, and faith. They acknowledge the complex experiences of substance use, poverty, homelessness, caring, and trauma with empathy and sensitivity. By exploring varied roles and identities through lived experience accounts, the text gives an active voice to populations that are often silenced. In addition to learning about the needs of the ‘other’ the authors challenge the reader to understand their own positionality, recognising the power inherent in being an educator.

This text has real-world applications for educators from a wide range of disciplines, delivering teaching for students at all levels. As society hardens its attitudes to some of the most disenfranchised people, facing the most challenging lives, it becomes increasingly important that we counter this by creating empathy and understanding in professional communities. ‘Key Concepts and Concerns of Teaching Sensitive Subjects and Topics’ encourages and supports us to create meaningful spaces to explore issues safely, developing the necessary empathy to meet needs and allow all members of society to flourish and thrive.

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