

Press release

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New book dissects global health reforms

“As a journalist by trade I always want to get the most up to date, accurate and readable account across, to make people aware of the policies that are being promoted in our name by politicians at home and abroad.

“I have always wanted to see a serious, critical analysis of health policy reform, to give an overview of what is happening and put specific issues in context.

“This is my best shot at doing just that.”

So says **John Lister**, one of the leading advocates of equity-oriented, rights-based approaches to the design and operation of health systems, in both rich and poor countries alike.

John Lister's book 'Health Policy Reform: Driving the Wrong Way', published in 2005, was hailed as '*the definitive critique of market-oriented health care 'reforms' that the World Bank has been promoting at least since 1993*'. Now Libri Publishing is pleased to announce the publication of his completely revised and restructured analysis of health policy, '*Health Policy Reform: Global Health versus Private Profit*'. In this, John Lister brings his critique of health policy up-to-date. He continues to question whether the major 'reforms' which have been, and are still being, introduced are driven primarily by the health needs of the wider population or, in fact, by non-health considerations - the financial and political concerns of governments and global institutions.

John Lister's writings fill a gap in the literature covering the recent history of healthcare provision and are unique in their global scope. In *Health Policy Reform: Global Health versus Private Profit* Lister presents the key issues facing health professionals today. He produces a consistent and coherent critical analysis of different situations in different countries, making his approach wholly unlike those of previous, less comprehensive studies. With extensive evidence and over 60 pages of references, the book is essential reading for clinicians and administrators alike, as well as for all students of health policy and management.

Colin Leys, emeritus professor of political studies Queen's University, Canada, and joint author *The Plot Against the NHS* says of '*Health Policy Reform: Global Health versus Private Profit*'

“Lister's knowledge of the literature, lucid reasoning and clean prose are a class act. This is a major achievement which everyone interested in health needs to read.”

Martin McKee CBE, Professor of European Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine says:

“John Lister takes on the narrative being peddled by the new global elite and their cheerleaders who are mounting a sustained attack on what remains of the welfare state, with health care as one of their prime targets. Lister shows that there is an alternative, but it is up to us to seize it.”

John Lister will be speaking about ***Health Policy Reform: Global Health versus Private Profit*** at the book launch at the National Union of Journalists HQ, Headlands House, 308 Gray's Inn Road London on Thursday 6 June from 1800 – 2030. To attend please contact Pat Graham at Pat.Graham@libripublishing.co.uk or telephone 07540125926.

Further information

Publication date: 6 June 2013

If you would like a review copy of *Health Policy Reform: Global Health versus Private Profit* please contact Pat Graham at Pat.Graham@libripublishing.co.uk or telephone 07540125926.

For more information, or to arrange to interview John Lister, please contact Pat Graham at Pat.Graham@libripublishing.co.uk

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Notes for Editors

Other endorsements received for *Health Policy Reform: Global Health versus Private Profit*

The political economy of health care remains largely camouflaged in 'zombie' ideas with deep roots in a neoliberal orthodoxy. John Lister's book makes an important contribution to informed health policy debates and should be essential reading for progressive health reformers worldwide.

Ronald Labonté, Canada Research Chair, Globalization/Health Equity, Professor, Faculty of Medicine Institute of Population Health, Ottawa

Now is a critical time for public health care and health systems across the world John Lister's book gives us valuable insights into the forces that are arrayed against universal health care, and how capitalism is consuming our basic rights and entitlements. It's up to us to organise to take them back.

Allyson Pollock, Professor of public health research and policy at Queen Mary, University of London

John Lister's book is a must-read for anyone passionate about universal health care to understand its greatest obstacle and where we must focus our fight.

Anna Marriott, Health Policy Advisor, Oxfam GB

John Lister has written a really important book which is as ambitious, as all encompassing, and as undocinaire as to qualify as a sort of Doyal 'Political Economy of Health' for the 21st Century.

John S Yudkin MD FRCP, Emeritus Professor of Medicine and former Director, International Health and Medical Education Centre, University College London

John Lister's excellent book is essential reading for all students and practitioners of health and social care who want to understand the context within which they are now being condemned to work, and start changing it.

Julian Tudor Hart, author of *The Political Economy of Health Care: a clinical perspective*

John Lister's book is an encyclopaedic, thoroughly referenced update of his 2005 work. It gives us an elegant and comprehensive, crucial update on many issues as we begin to discuss what next after the Millennium Development Goals."

Claudio Schuftan, People's Health Movement, Ho Chi Minh City