

Book Review

Ginwright, S. A. (2022). *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves*. The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. (272 pp., Paperback \$18.95).

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Introduction

Shawn Ginwright's *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* is a valuable resource for communication centers seeking to engage in conversations about equity and justice. Though not written exclusively for communication center practitioners and researchers, *The Four Pivots* asks questions that inspire a certain vulnerability that is rare in academic contexts. Ginwright's reflection and guidance complement our field's ongoing, and especially recent, call for equity-centered, anti-racist research and practice in the writing center (e.g., Condon, Inoue, Kelly, & Green, 2022; Haltiwanger-Morrison, 2022; Tang, 2022; Villanueva, 2006). As our field continues to grapple with the legacy of racism in higher education, *The Four Pivots* provides readers with an opportunity to consider the personal and collective next steps for enacting equity and justice in communication center contexts.

Summary

The Four Pivots is divided into four sections, each discussing a pivot Ginwright calls his readers to make. *Pivot 1: From Lens to Mirror* argues that "[s]ocial change is deeply connected to our own healing, reflection, and well-being" (p. 36). As Ginwright recognizes, the practice of self-reflection is often not prioritized in organizations, but he asks us to engage in this mirror work because exploring who we are is connected to the social changes we make.

The second section, *Pivot 2: From Transactional to Transformative*, calls us to create a culture of belonging by moving from transactional relationships toward more meaning-centered, transformative relationships that draw on our ability to care and be vulnerable. Ginwright reminds readers that "[b]elonging [...] requires mutual consent to matter to one another" (p. 94) while also acknowledging the importance of safety considerations, especially for individuals from marginalized communities.

In *Pivot 3: From Problem to Possibility*, Ginwright calls readers to move from "problem-loving" (p. 175) to engaging in radical solutions, which truly addresses systemic oppression. He criticizes the assumption that being aware of a problem automatically leads to a solution. Rather than focusing solely on problems, Ginwright implores readers to work from an understanding of what they want to see and achieve. We need to pivot toward asking ourselves and one another, "What world are you dreaming about? We know what we are fighting against, but what are we creating, imagining, and fighting for?" (p. 178).

The final section, *Pivot 4: From Hustle to Flow*, discusses how the fight for justice can be taxing on bodies, especially bodies of color, yet individual well-being is inseparable from our collective efforts for justice. Ginwright thus urges readers to "cultivate spaces of solitude, reflection, and vision" (p. 233). This pivot to presence resists a capitalist emphasis on productivity by recognizing boundaries as central to

individual and collective well-being within the fight for justice.

Evaluation

The Four Pivots is an accessible and enlightening read, most notably in its capacity to resonate with diverse readers. In his writing, Ginwright models the vulnerability, self-reflection, and pivots to action which he encourages readers to cultivate in their own lives. He does so by weaving together a variety of examples, at times autobiographical, that invite readers to connect his argument with their own situations. Given the accessibility and plethora of examples, *The Four Pivots* can especially lead communication center professionals to heartfelt conversations about questions such as: How do we build meaningful reflection into our center's training and practice (Pivot 1)? How do we foster a culture of true belonging in the communication center (Pivot 2)? How do we build and sustain inclusive and equitable practices to include students from historically marginalized populations (Pivot 3)? How can we care for our students, one another, and ourselves, especially as we transition into a post-Covid world (Pivot 4)? Using the four pivots to engage in such questions can help communication center professionals in their ongoing work of tutor hiring and training, individual consultations, and discussions of writing pedagogy.

Application

We find Ginwright's four pivots invaluable to our work in the following ways. First, his call to pivot from transactional to transformative has offered us a useful perspective for reflecting on our goals when working with students on graduate school application materials. We have pivoted in how we frame the statement of purpose and diversity statement to help students not to be limited by the transactional nature of these statements, instead viewing these essays as an opportunity for a transformative experience (Park & Todey, 2022). By encouraging readers to engage in meaningful reflection and brainstorming, Ginwright has given us the language and introductory framing for the way that we have conceived of supporting students. Secondly, the third pivot, from problem to possibility, has encouraged us to approach situations of suspected plagiarism with curiosity rather than judgment. Using this lens, we seek to understand what personal and cultural experiences might inform a student's understanding of Western academic perspectives of text ownership and attribution (e.g., Gu & Brooks, 2008). In this approach we work to scaffold the student's understanding of and engagement in these complex citation practices.

We are enthusiastic about the different ways in which this book could encourage other practitioners and researchers as they continue to reimagine and work toward justice and well-being in their writing center contexts. This book is not a solution; however, it is an invitation to connect, both in research and practice, the inner and communal work of cultivating belonging to confront historical and contemporary racism in both higher education and academic writing.

References

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