

VOX POLITICAL

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I - I WORK THEREFORE I AM?

Context, psychopolitics and psychocompulsion

“WORK IS GOOD FOR YOU”

- The role of neoliberal narratives in implementing the neoliberal agenda (self-sufficient, productive, tax paying) citizen.



- “Work is good for you”: the normalisation of falsehoods

PSYCHOCOMPULSION AND PSYCHOPOLITICS



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

- “Isn’t it time that people stopped equating social inclusion, rehabilitation and recovery with work? Were we ever not included? Not true! ... we live in the same society as everyone else ... but it’s the words that people use that exclude us, such as ill, such as mal-adjusted, economically inactive/unproductive, etc. We may not be useful-productive through work but we have a lot to offer to the world in other ways.”

Nathalie, Les Indignés de la psychiatrie Française/Occupy French Psychiatry

- “People need individual, tailored flexibility: working hours, working environment... With proper funding to allow us to work like anyone else”

Philippe, Les Indignés de la psychiatrie Française/Occupy French Psychiatry

- “We don’t want to be penalised by hostile work and benefit policies that are only interested in forcing us back into work for political and ideological reasons”

Georgia, UK

- “My brother worked 2 hours a week in a garden centre for €2.50/hour. He was entitled to 10 days a year holiday and 10 days a year sickness pay. He had no entitlement to pension rights. It’s exploitation, it was repetitive and boring and he hated it. I don’t think assembly type work or neoliberal working conditions are suitable for people like him”

[Lisa, Italy](#)

- “In Italy there is a very strong, very deep prejudice against people with a disability and they are less likely to get good jobs or good support. Some schemes are interesting, like cooperatives (catering, hotels, B&B, crafts etc...) but you need capital to start such ventures and people who have disabilities are far less likely to have any money to invest in such nice ideas...”

[Pmarco, Italy](#)

2- WHAT BRINGS PEOPLE TO THE
WORLD OF WORK... OR NOT?

- **Positives:**
- Been allowed/supported to decide when and how
- Good information about training, education possibilities
- Training and employment schemes that are meaningful and genuinely meet people's skills and aspirations
- Being able to use "lived experience"
- Potential to feel more included in society
- Potential for more independence
 - Money: earning a decent wage/living wage as a minimum/ coming off benefits
 - Flexible, sustainable in/out of work benefits
- Sense of achievement and pride
- Personal satisfaction
- Personal development
- Need for social recognition
- **Negatives:**
- Bullying politics (psychopolitics)

WHAT KEEPS PEOPLE IN WORK?

- Good management:
 - Personal development
 - Flexible working conditions: hours and environment
 - Consultation with staff
 - Bullying and discrimination in the work place tackled forcefully
 - Feeling valued and respected in the workplace
 - Well managed disclosure
- Having control over job demand/role stress
- Adequate/properly funded in-work support, especially when things go wrong
 - Sickness policy that supports people with disabilities rather than punish them
- Transparency in decision-making processes
- Co-operation over competition etc...

- Feeling more included in society
- Sense of achievement and pride /Personal satisfaction
- Being more independent/ Money: earning a decent wage/living wage as a minimum
- Being able to use “lived experience” but not being used because of it
- Implementation of protective legislation: Human rights, health and safety regulations,
- Flexible, supportive in/out of work-work benefits
- Policies that reduce socio-economic inequalities
- Policies that tackle discrimination of people on welfare (e.g. housing)
- Job security

- “Flexible part time working / understanding and respectful employer / meaningful work, which corresponds to personality and education / no more sanctions / possibility of having both welfare support and part time work without having to jump through administrative nightmare hoops / decent wages / end to general societal prejudices (the problem is not limited to the workplace)...what bring us to the work place is what brings anyone else to the workplace - differentiating between us and them must end ...
- Work must never be presented as a cure. It's above all an obligation and society must be honest about this fact - making it meaningful does help considerably but let's not fool ourselves, permanently meaningful employment is rare.”

(Stevie, UK)

**3- ENGAGEMENT, INVOLVEMENT:
HOW CAN USERS AND SURVIVORS
INFLUENCE THE AGENDA?**

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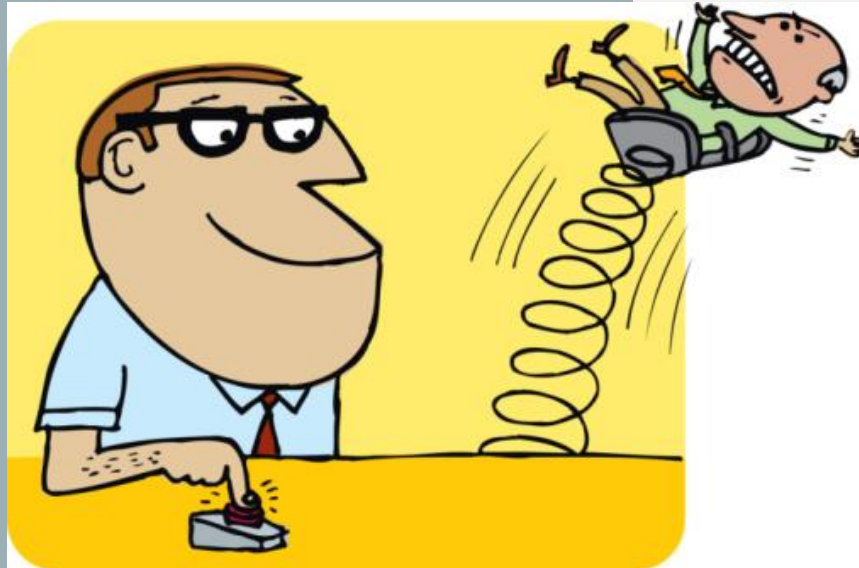
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QUESTION

LOOKING IN,
NOT ALLOWED IN...





MANY DEGREES AND
SHADES OF...



CONCLUSION

BREXIT



THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY TO GRASP THE BIGGER PICTURE

**Social justice, equality and inclusion
are not the same thing as “work is
good for you”**

**Work and welfare policies should be
considered together but not used as
threats or sanction tools to achieve a
change in behaviour**

**There is more to contributing to
society than being a productive
citizen**



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