

“This fascinating book reports on detailed interviews with individuals accused or convicted of trafficking-related offenses, illustrating how and why they landed in work in illicit economies. Overwhelming structural disadvantages are revealed by the victims that resulted in reliance on those who exploit them. Few ‘traffickers’ are discovered to be ‘organized criminals’ and many are found to closely resemble those they exploit. An intriguing empirical and policy narrative of how modern slavery has greatly oversimplified the context of what is actually occurring in the environment of human trafficking.”

Professor Jay Albanese, Virginia Commonwealth University,
Wilder School of Government & Public Affairs

“Broad and Gadd’s research is the crucial missing piece in ‘modern slavery’ scholarship. By investigating the human stories behind the headlines, they skilfully dispel unhelpful mystiques about traffickers. This should be required reading for anyone concerned about trafficking and injustice today.”

Emily Kenway, author of *The Truth about Modern Slavery*

Demystifying Modern Slavery

Who are the perpetrators of modern slavery? Why do they exploit others? What might be done to stop exploitation recurring? These are the questions answered in this book. Reporting on the first primary study of modern slavery offenders, the book depicts the findings of in-depth interviews with people accused of, and convicted for, committing modern slavery offences. The different forms that modern slavery takes are explained chapter by chapter: organized crime, people smuggling, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, sham marriage, the trafficking of adults for sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking. Using case studies to illuminate the perspectives of those deemed perpetrators, we show that few modern slavery offenders conform to stereotypes of people traffickers.

Through an interpretive analysis of offenders' life stories, we reveal the points in the past and present where interventions could have prevented victims from becoming trapped in exploitation. We show that while national governments and international bodies often appear resolute in their efforts to tackle modern slavery and people trafficking, they have also obscured their own roles in compounding the plights of those at the sharp ends of globalization. In racializing the actions of sex traffickers, grooming gangs, and organized criminals, the modern slavery agenda has mystified the roles market dynamics, the absence of workers' rights, and immigration controls play in generating vulnerabilities to exploitation.

This book will be of interest to a wide range of students, policymakers and practitioners concerned with modern slavery, human trafficking, border control and immigration, globalization and inequality, as well as the more discipline-focused criminological audiences concerned with why people commit crimes, what should be done about them and the, often paradoxical, consequences of social control across borders. Given the book's strong focus on narrative, psychosocial and social network methodologies, it will also appeal to audiences across the social sciences concerned with applying these novel approaches to difficult to reach populations.

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