

# Boost your learning and improve your practice!

## Practice manuals and more from Neil Thompson and his colleagues!

At Avenue, we fully recognize the value of theory, but we see it as theory **for** practice, not theory **vs.** practice.

That's why we launched our practice manual series. Each one contains an important foundation of theoretical knowledge, but it is not a case of theory for its own sake but, rather, theory to help us to develop important foundations of understanding – knowledge that will help us to become more effective practitioners and managers.

Each manual contains practice examples, key points and exercises to help you think through the issues. Our aim is to make a positive difference to professional practice by strengthening links between theory and practice, bringing professional knowledge to life.

If you want to know about theory just to pass an essay or impress a tutor, manager or interview panel, these manuals are not for you.

But if what you really want is to be better equipped to wrestle with the complexities of professional practice and make a real difference, then these manuals are definitely for you.

Neil says:

"After years of working with major international publishers, it was a big, scary step to set up our own range of publications, but I'm so glad we did. We have managed to keep prices down, while also producing excellent-quality resources. And it has been very gratifying to receive so much positive feedback."

See overleaf for details of the full range of manuals – as well as our latest publication, Neil's highly acclaimed *Anti-racism for Beginners*.

# Racism has no place in a civilised society

An ideal short introduction to a vitally important but often misunderstood topic

Introducing ...

## Anti-racism for Beginners

By Neil Thompson

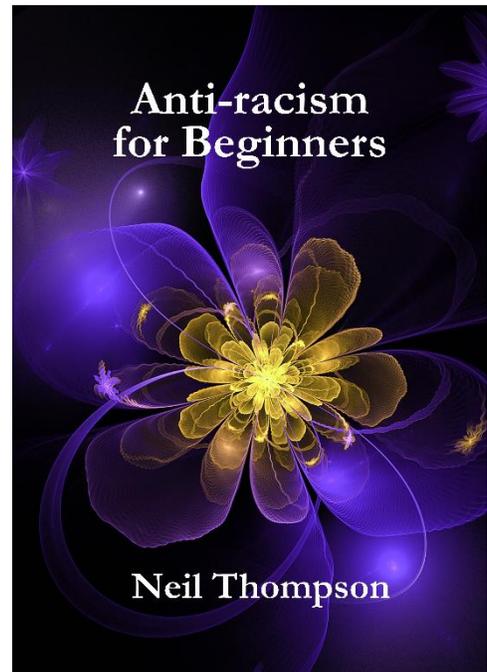
Neil's work on anti-discriminatory practice has been very well received for many years and highly praised for its clarity and strong practice focus. His latest contribution to the cause is no exception!

"Although indicated for 'beginners', this book is a timeless resource for individuals of various developmental stages of understanding anti-racism"

*Dr Tashel Bordere, University of Missouri*

"Neil navigates the reader through a vast array of some very complex debates in his no-nonsense way"

*Dr Suki Desai, independent researcher*



"I have no hesitation in recommending this book as a terrific starting point, but also as a pathway to furthering knowledge on this essential topic" *John McGowan, Social Workers Union*

"... essential reading for anyone looking to understand anti-racism and will undoubtedly be a leader in the field" *Professor Jason Powell, McMaster University, Canada*

"The practical suggestions for anti-racist practice and opportunity for reflection on personal attitudes are incredibly helpful" *Professor Darcy Harris, King's University College at Western University, London, Canada*

**Just £9.99** via Amazon or from <https://bit.ly/avenuemediabooks>

# Our latest practice manuals!

Affordable practice-based books from Neil Thompson and colleagues

## The Spirituality and Religion Practice Manual

By Neil Thompson and Bernard Moss

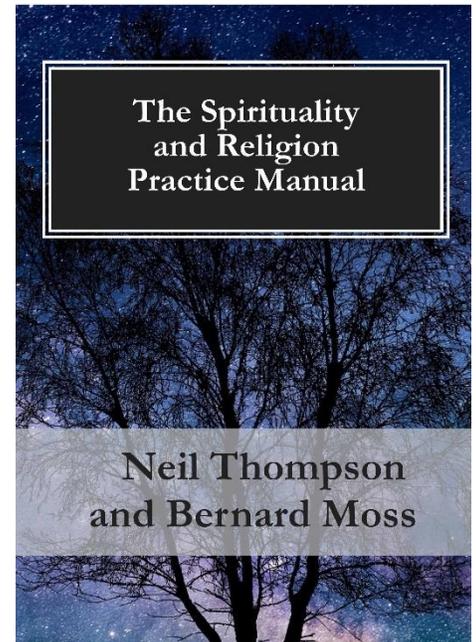
This is an invaluable guide to making sure that professional practice is 'spiritually sensitive'.

Despite our personal, interpersonal, and professional lives constantly being shaped by our values and belief systems, the common discourse on spirituality is often reduced to religion, with little exploration of its intricate dimensionalities and complexities. This practice manual provides an honest, informed, and in-depth discussion of the various constitutions of spirituality, while examining its intersection with religion for informing professional practice in the human services. It is long overdue and highly commendable, a refreshing, important and comprehensive addition to the literature; a volume that makes us think, reflect, and act upon our true north with conviction and determination.

**Dr Andy Hau Yan Ho , Vice President, Association for Death Education and Counseling**

This is not a textbook in the typical sense and use of the term manual should not suggest a functional "how to manual". The authors draw on their considerable expertise to challenge thinking, promote reflection and improve practice through a framework that takes complex concepts and makes them manageable and accessible. The values and knowledge of the authors shine through and suggest the integration of theory, practice, and values by promoting a "theorizing practice" approach. Importantly, the manual makes a compelling case for the importance of understanding people's spiritual needs as that which enables people to 'give expression to their worldview'. This thought-provoking approach is helpful and the use of 'moccasin moments' encourages reflection and understanding. The exercises at the end of each section require the reader to think and to apply that thinking to complex situations, thereby better understanding how our own values inform what we do and how we practise.

**Gerry Rice, Dean for Students, University of the West of England**



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## The Values-based Practice Manual

By Bernard Moss and Neil Thompson

Values are at the heart of everything we do, both in our work and beyond it. In this important new text two highly experienced educators and highly respected authors present a clear and helpful account of what values are all about, why they are so vitally important and what needs to happen to ensure best practice.

So much of what has been written about values has been at an abstract level, something that many students and practitioners struggle to engage with. This manual, by contrast, shows that values are highly significant, not just at a theoretical or philosophical level, but also in direct practice.

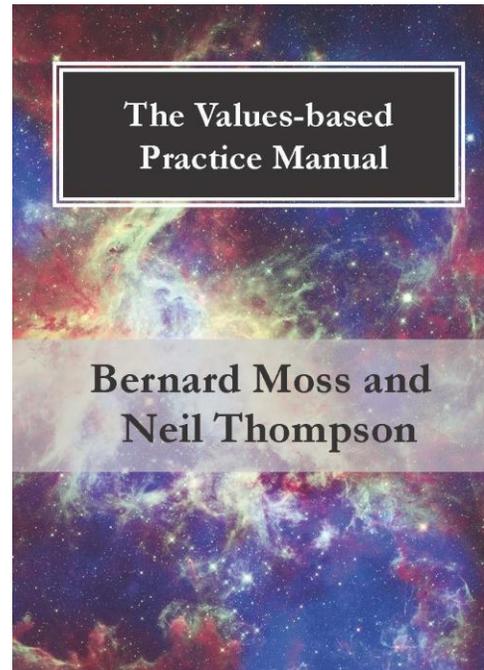
This manual ...

“offers an invaluable resource for students and experienced practitioners in remembering the important core of our work”  
Abyd Quinn Aziz, Cardiff University

“re-opens the door to another view, in which values are at the core of our being and doing”  
Phillip Ablett, University of the Sunshine Coast

is “Easy to read and full of opportunities for the reader to reflect on their own journey into practice”  
Iolo Madoc Jones, Wrexham Glyndŵr University

“is accessible, relatable and doable for busy practitioners”  
Allison Hulmes, National Director, BASW Cymru



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## The Problem Solver's Practice Manual

by Neil Thompson

Since the very early days of Avenue Media Solutions, our philosophy has been based on the idea that, where there are people, there will be problems, but there will also be potential. This manual addresses this directly. It contains an extended essay on the nature of problem-solving followed by 101 problem-solving tools or techniques – each one designed to provide a basis for tackling one or more problem areas. The basic idea behind it is that the knowledge and insights it offers should prove to be empowering for practitioners and managers – so that they will be better placed to empower others who are facing various problems and challenges. In this way, the manual provides a basis for working with people in constructive ways to not only help them address their problems, but also to realize their potential.

“This important, interesting and valuable book provides a very different model for solving problems rooted in a social and cultural approach to people and their problems. ... It takes the reader light years beyond the limited, formula-based approaches of solving problems found in other books in the field. Anyone who works with people will find this book to be an essential tool. It is an exceptional book that will be of value to anyone who works with people and is destined to become a classic in the field.”

Dr. Gerry, R. Cox, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

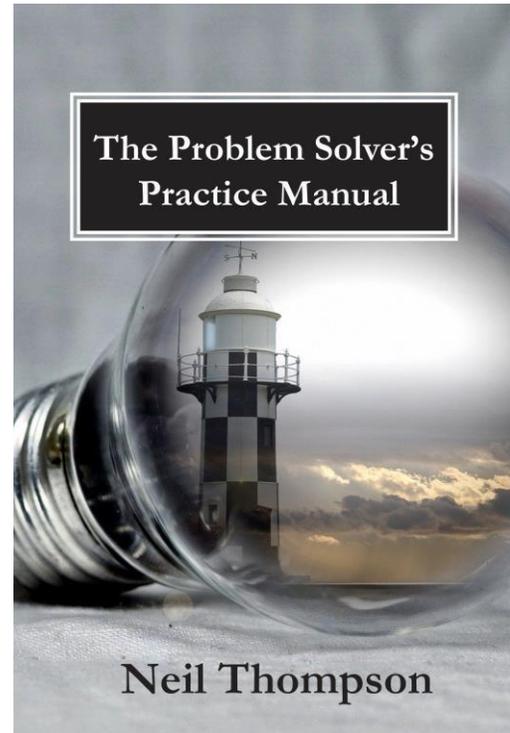
“Offering innovative solutions, this book is a fantastic resource to help workers creatively navigate the complex and challenging dilemmas often involved in working with people.”

Professor Christine Morley, University of Queensland

“This manual masterfully brings together the author's vast repository of knowledge and skills to offer practical tools and reflective thinking points to help those who help others in developing and maintaining best ethical, effective practice.”

Dr Christian Beech, Swansea University

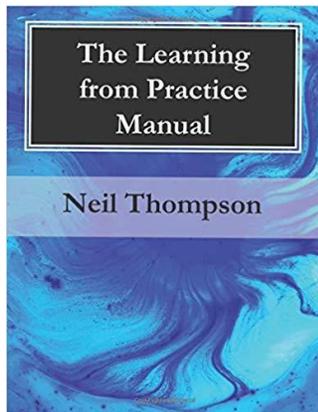
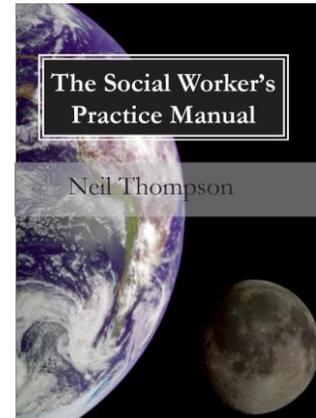
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## Also available in the Avenue Practice Manuals series ...

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An essential practice guide for all social workers and social work students

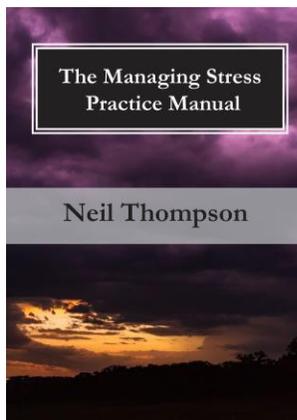
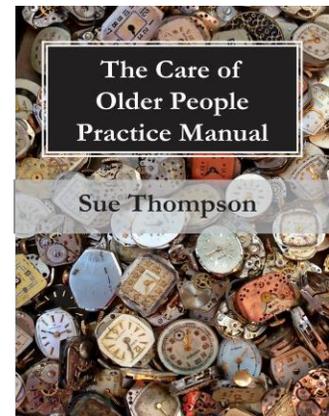


**The Learning from Practice Manual** by Neil Thompson £24.99

A perfect guide for practice educators or anyone involved in supporting others in their learning

**The Care of Older People Practice Manual** by Sue Thompson  
£12.99

Everyone working with older people can benefit from this clear and helpful manual of anti-ageist practice



**The Managing Stress Practice Manual** by Neil Thompson £14.99

Learn how to keep pressures within manageable limits and deal with stress effectively when it occurs

### **Where there are people there will be problems ... but there will also be potential**

At Avenue Media Solutions we understand the importance of learning and the role it plays in tackling problems and realizing potential. For some years now we have been offering a range of books, e-learning courses and online learning programmes.

### **Also available ...**

In addition to our series of practice manuals we also publish:

### **Lessons for Living: 101 Top Tips for Optimal Well-being at Work and Beyond**

By Neil Thompson £9.99

Hear what Neil has to say about what can be done to improve our quality of life. Here they are gathered into a single volume and accompanied by Neil's explanation of the importance of taking well-being seriously. This is essential reading for anyone who wants to get the most they can out of life.

### **Your Social Work Journal: A Journey: From First Thoughts to First Placement**

By Sue Thompson £9.99

This is an ideal resource for people just beginning their social work journey or considering embarking on one. Written by a highly experienced social work professional and esteemed educator, it provides an excellent guide to beginning a career in social work.

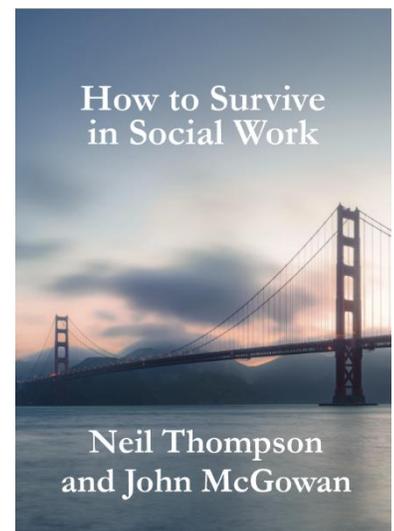
### **How to Survive in Social Work**

By Neil Thompson and John McGowan £15.99

Much-needed guidance on not only surviving, but also aiming for thriving. An essential guide for modern social work.

\*\*\* Discounts available for purchase of five or more copies of any one title if ordered direct from Avenue Media Solutions – <http://bit.ly/avenuemediabooks> \*\*\*

--- Prices include UK postage and packing ---



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## The Social Work Finishing School

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Visit [www.SocialWorkFinishing.School](http://www.SocialWorkFinishing.School) for more details.

## Dr Neil Thompson

Following a successful career in social work as a practitioner, manager and educator, Neil now works as an independent writer, educator and advisor on various aspects of well-being and human relations. Become a member (for free) of his Academy at [www.NeilThompson.info](http://www.NeilThompson.info) to gain access to free learning resources, including Neil's highly acclaimed *Manifesto for Making a Difference*.

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