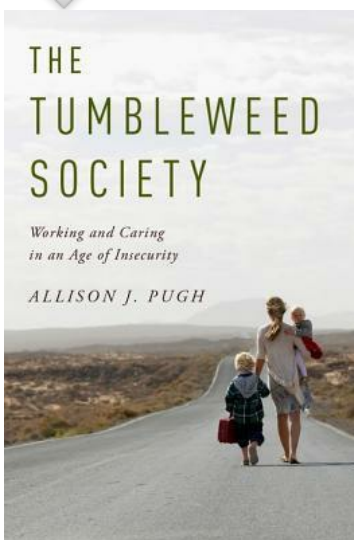




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The Tumbleweed Society: Working and Caring in an Age of Insecurity

by Allison J. Pugh

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We live in a tumbleweed society, where job insecurity is rampant and widely seen as inevitable. Companies are transforming the way they organize work. While new working conditions offer gains for some workers, others lose out. Many have pointed out what these changes mean at work. Yet why would they affect us only in the workplace? In *The Tumbleweed Society*, sociologist Al ...[more](#)

Hardcover, 280 pages

Published February 13th 2015 by Oxford University Press, USA (first published November 22nd 2014)

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**Mark Underwood** rated it

Jan 17, 2015

Recommends it for: social activists unafraid of academic writing
Recommended to Mark by: Amazon Vine

A Voice for Employment Fairness: Farsighted, Faint

Allison Pugh's (@Allison_Pugh) sociology project, *The Tumbleweed Society: Working and Caring in an Age of Insecurity* paints a grim picture of work life in America and forecasts that it will get worse. She does not mention anything about it getting better, but -- well, those Americans are an adaptable bunch.

There aren't as many possible perspectives on this text as there are thorns on a drought-happy tumbleweed (and this reviewer grew up in Tucson [...more](#)

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**Leah** rated it

Dec 02, 2014

Needless to say, the plant-people tumbleweed analogy won't parallel perfectly, but it's a colorfully useful image. Living in the southwest, I've seen lots of tumbleweeds, but still needed to learn a little about them. Via wikipedia, here are a few facts:

"A tumbleweed is a structural part of the above-ground anatomy of any of a number of species of plants, a diaspore that, once it is mature and dry, detaches from its root or stem, and tumbles away in the wind. ...

Tumbleweed species occur most co [...more](#)

1 like · Like · see review

**Nancy Kennedy** rated it

Jan 10, 2015

Allison Pugh's book is part Studs Terkel, part sociology textbook. I always appreciate authors who insert real life into their manuscripts, instead of just dry statistics and theories. In her book, Ms. Pugh examines the flexibility (or fragility, depending on how you look at it) inherent in today's work environment and home life through the lens of about eighty people.

By "Tumbleweed Society," Ms. Pugh means that we as Americans are less tethered to communities, jobs and family members than in pa [...more](#)

Like · see review

**Jason** rated it

Jan 02, 2015

The Tumbleweed Society by Allison J. Pugh associate professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia is a useful examination of the modern American, middle class work place. The author, rightly in many ways, expresses the modern work place, particularly in corporations, as one where employees have few rights and the employers have few obligations. As a work to study among a broad group of individuals, how these changes are effecting them, this book is a good start, and a decent continuation [...more](#)

Like · see review

**Rama** rated it

Dec 02, 2014

Sociology of the divided mind: Tackling the mind-body disorders of the 21 century.

The 21 century is becoming more like a tumbleweed society, where job insecurity is large and the economic disparities are wide. Will this eventually become 99.9 percent to 0.1 percent class system? What would be the future of let "free market" take care of itself so that the prosperity offered thus far will continue to get better, as many politicians like us to believe every four years when they need our votes. In [...more](#)

Like · see review

**Samuel Wiersma** rated it

Jun 08, 2015

At the outset of her book Pugh establishes the archetype of many of the people I work alongside, who fall under the moniker 'tumbleweed'. She uses the analogy in her text to describe those employees and intimate partners who pick up and move along, often with very little foresight or advanced planning, in search of different employment and intimate relationships.

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● ○

Pugh makes her analogy without dwelling on it—she could have put the problem another way, I suppose, by asking why it is that some ind [...more](#)

Like · see review

 **Biblio Files** rated it Nov 12, 2014

There have been so many good books recently about the plight of the American worker and massive financial inequality worldwide. According to The Economist, the wealth of the top 0.10 percent will soon exceed that of the bottom 90 oercent. The Tumbleweed Society looks at the worker from a different angle. Sociologist Alison Pugh investigates how job insecurity is affecting workers' personal lives apart from work.


Pugh interviews dozens of workers, mostly parents, to find out about their marriages [...more](#)

Like · see review

 **Tina Panik** rated it May 17, 2015
Shelves: explains-the-world-to-me

A strong premise, but the heavy reliance on case studies and narratives made it a cumbersome read.

Like · see review

 **Sharon Miller** marked it as to-read
Jul 30, 2015

 **Tina** marked it as to-read
Jul 30, 2015


 **Holly Donnelly** marked it as to-read
Jul 30, 2015

 **N** marked it as to-read
Jul 28, 2015

 **Zak Kain** marked it as to-read
Jul 28, 2015

 **Rachel** marked it as to-read
Jul 27, 2015

 **Kristina** marked it as to-read
Jul 26, 2015

 **Irene Chen** marked it as to-read
Jul 25, 2015


 **Lindsay** rated it
Jul 25, 2015


 **Anita Fajita Pita** marked it as to-read
Jul 06, 2015


 **Emily** marked it as to-read
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Jun 15, 2015


 **Kim!** marked it as to-read
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May 05, 2015

 **julian** marked it as to-read
May 05, 2015

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