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In this important publication, the reader is provided with a critical examination of social work practice in Ireland, past and present, in all its different forms. Written by a wide range of leading practitioners, researchers and academics engaged in social work education and training, it provides accessible insights into some of the key features of social work practice with children and adults in Ireland today. With a foreword by John Pinkerton Queen's University Belfast it grapples with social work's continuing mission in twenty first century Ireland. Chapter one to four contextualize the Irish social work project and interrogate its integrity in the face of; the economic turbulence of the Celtic Tiger era, the challenge(s) of globalization, rising inequality and new governance systems. Chapters five to thirteen guide the reader through the diverse practice endeavours of social workers in the fields of; adoption, fostering, family violence, intellectual disability, illness and health, mental health, probation, substance misuse and eldercare. Each of these chapters:

- explains how contemporary practice systems and responses have been shaped and influenced by political, social and cultural factors;
- formulates best practice strategies to respond to both current challenges and future concerns.

This is a comprehensive and well documented mature account of social work as a force for securing progressive social change and promoting wellbeing in Irish society.

It is a must read for all Irish social work students, practitioners and academics. It is also an excellent starting point for a wider international audience interested in Irish social work.