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CHAPTER 3

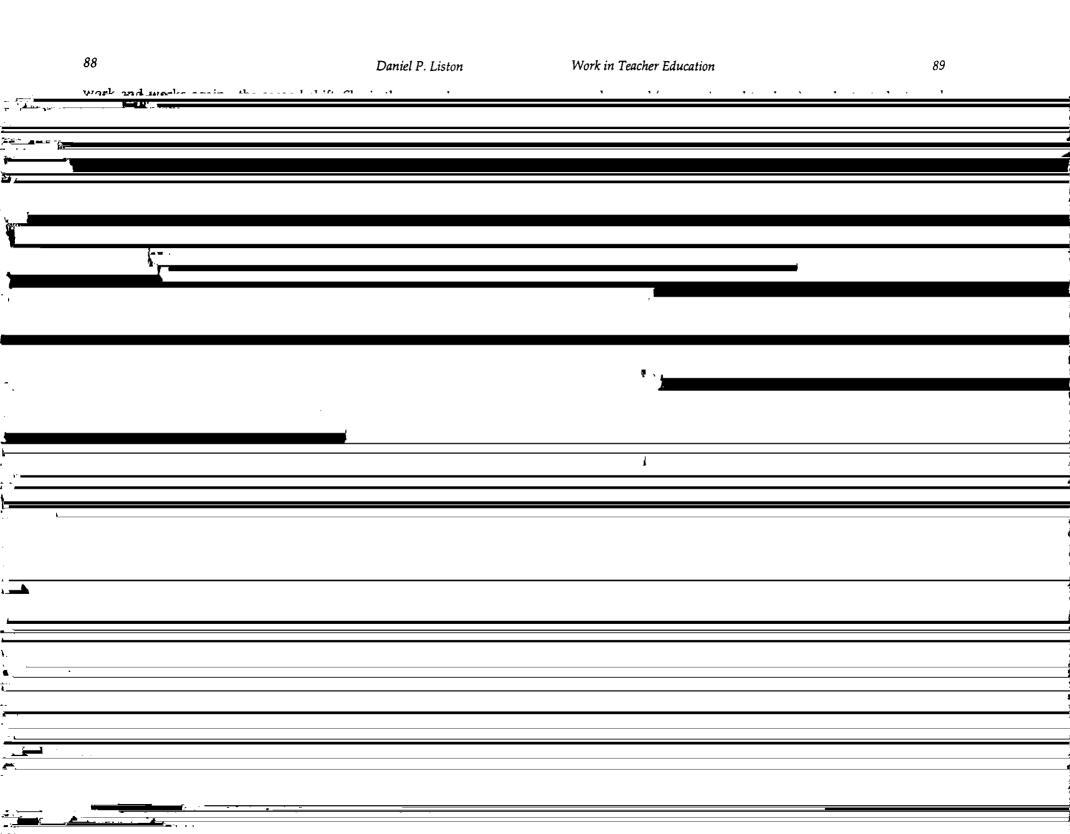
Work in Teacher Education: A Current Assessment of U.S. Teacher Education

Daniel P. Liston

Introduction

For quite some time I have been struck, bemused, and somewhat depressed by the parallels between my work at home and my work in teacher education.¹ At home my wife, Michele Seipp,

maintain a domestic life that nurtures and cares for our children, keeps, the house in working order prepares food for the table

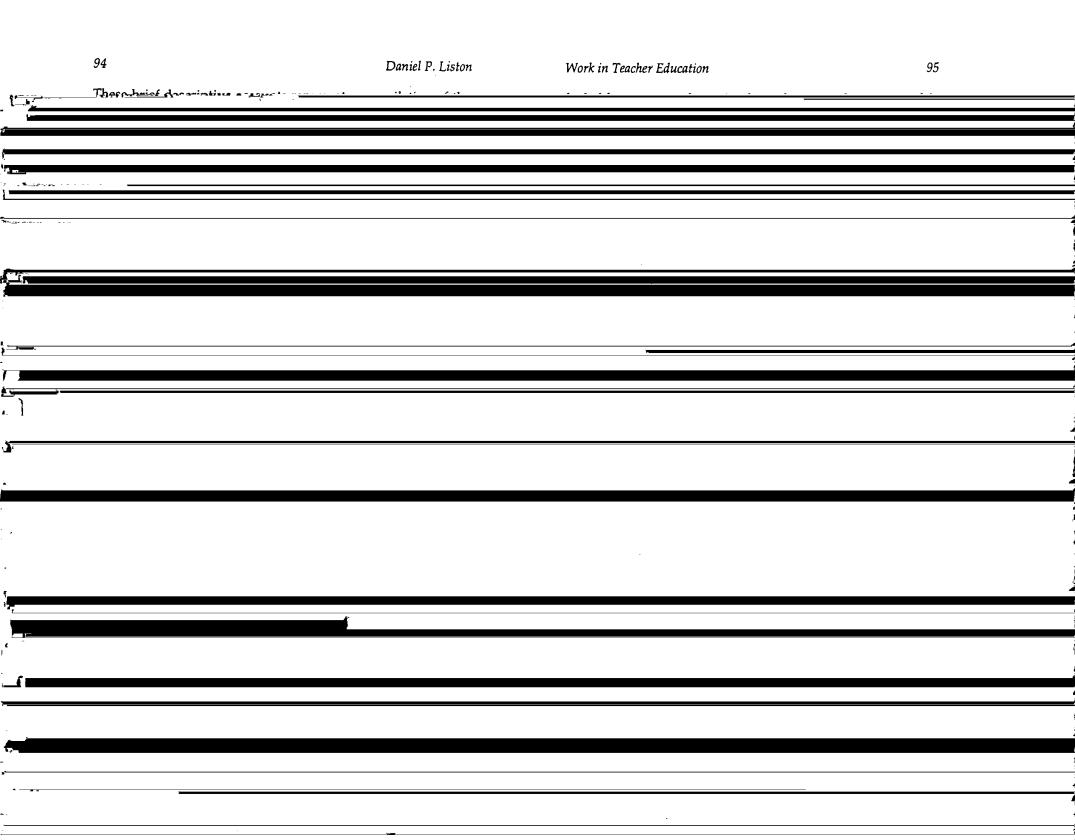


I first survey and summarize briefly the recent research documenting the obstacles in U.S. teacher education, focusing on qualitative distinctions between work in teacher education and the endeavor of doctoral education. Once I have established that tensions and problems exist in U.S. teacher education, I outline the central explanations proffered for these problems. Here I focus on the recent analyses of John Goodlad (1990), Nona Prestine (1991), Harry Judge (1982), and Milton Schwebel (1985).

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"classed" system of labor in schools of education that harms, not engenders, the education of teachers.

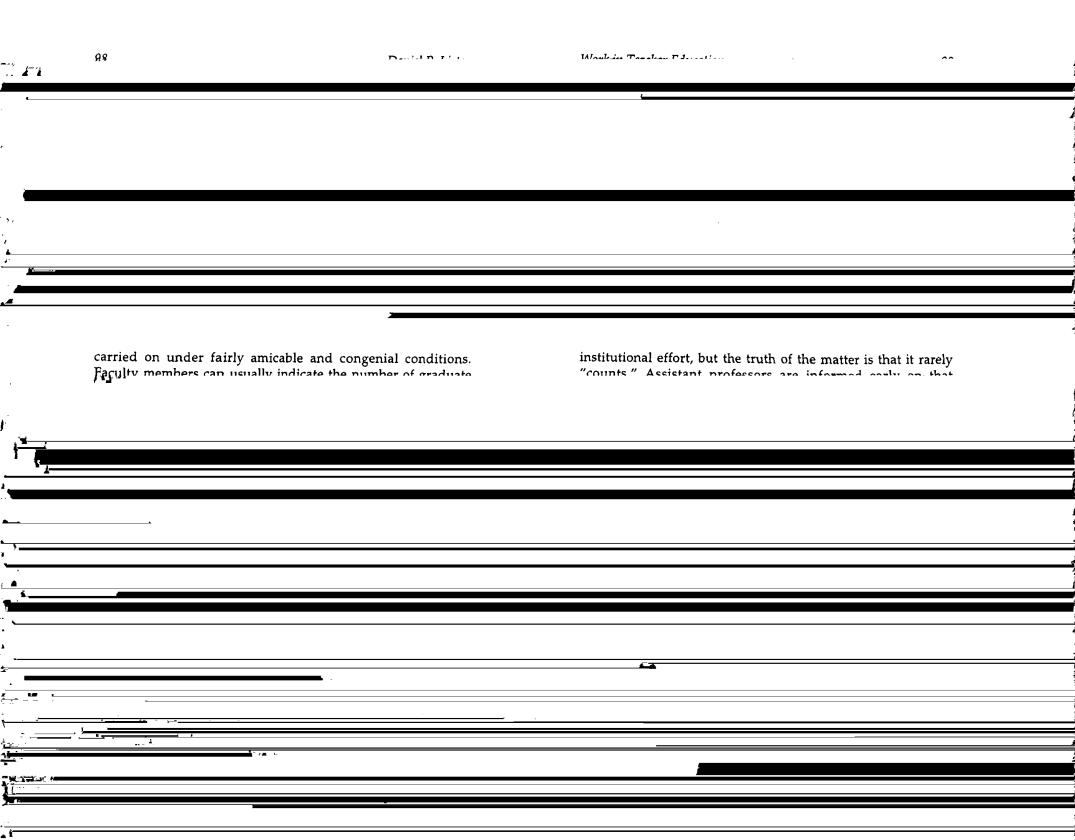
In an historical examination of the University of Chicago's School of Education, Woodie White (1982) captures these features of professional life and notes trends that have persisted for the last sixty years. After examining Chicago's School of Education from the years 1909-1929, he summarized his findings in the following manner:

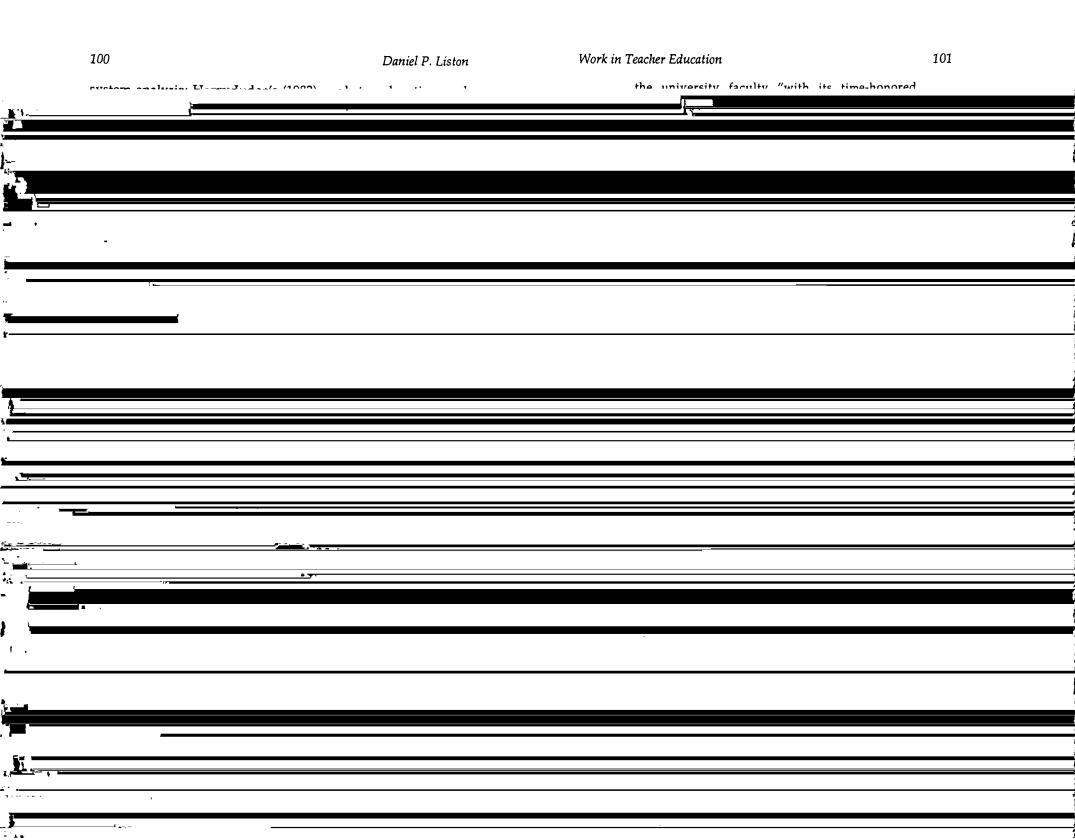


long for some very particular and, at times, immediate, responses. Some balance is needed and called for. In teacher education, training and reflection are required; and they are required in a manner that recognizes the place and importance of each component. In the preparation of teachers, there are issues to examine, skills and behaviors to develop, and norms and values to inspect. Research can contribute but it is certainly not

experience tends to reject rather than utilize large portions of what went on before it.

For faculty members in teacher education, the levels of uncertainty and ambiguity are generally high and the rewards fairly low. Talking about teaching practice when one's experience tends to be dated (or nonexistent) is not the most comfortable or secure setting for instruction. Teacher advection







men. It is recursive, time intensive, and frequently emotional labor. It seems "never-ending" and is emotionally taxing. Domestic labor includes the daily chores of cooking, cleaning (clothes, utensils, and living quarters), and, when children are present, caring for children. Caring for children entails clothing, feeding, educating, and loving them. The "feel" of domestic labor, in this age of the second shift, is work that has to be

need to view it relationally—not simply as tasks that are performed within the home. We need to see it as a production effort that occurs within a social relation. Trying to explain why standard economic accounts do not view housework as productive, Delphy maintains that the

... reason why housework is not considered to be

many individuals, work around the home is considered a necessary evil, part of our "private lives." It certainly benefits those within the home who eat the meals, wear the clothes, and grow from the nourishment and care that are provided. Those who work in teacher education programs most probably

cannot be excised. Teaching elementary and secondary students is certainly emotional labor, and preparing those individuals to teach at the elementary and secondary level is the closest one gets at the university to the life of the "real" teacher.

There are also parallels hetween the conundrums and

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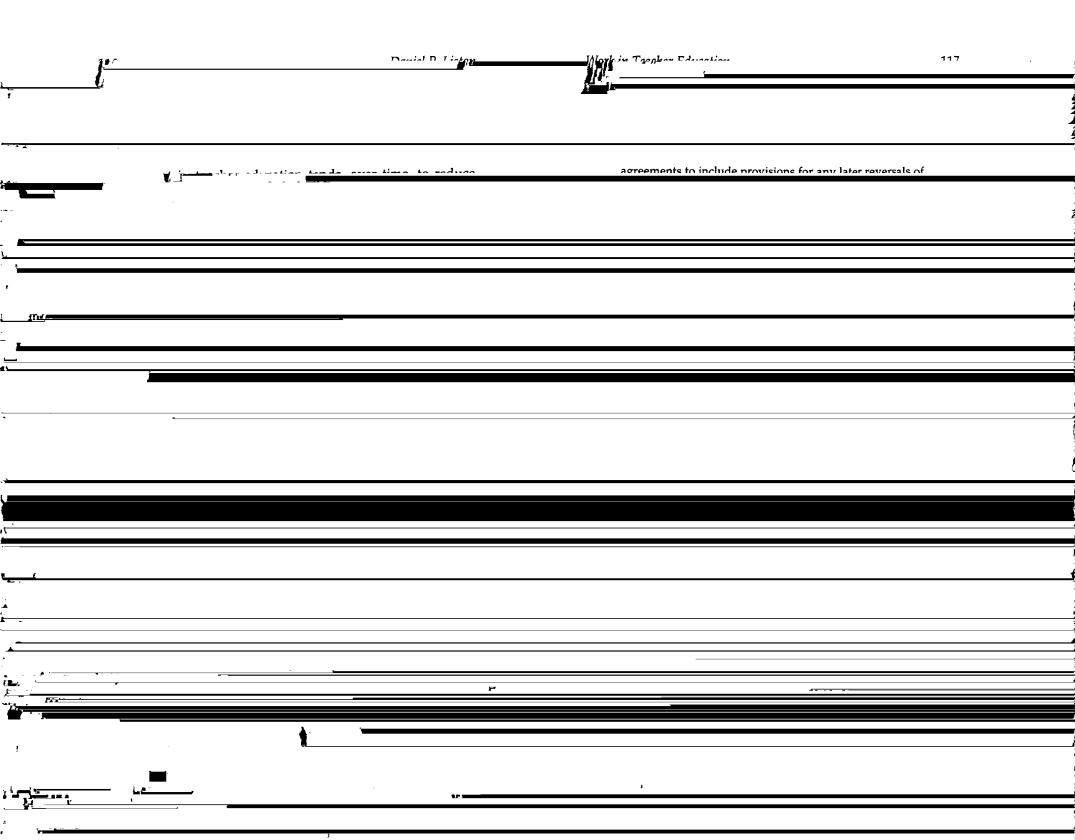
earner outside the home and a worker and parent inside the home. The variety of the demands seems far reaching and the number unending. When I look around and see colleagues and friends who have eliminated or simplified either their professional or their domestic lives, I can get envious and reaching Markon ment and anywhicke in when my colleagues

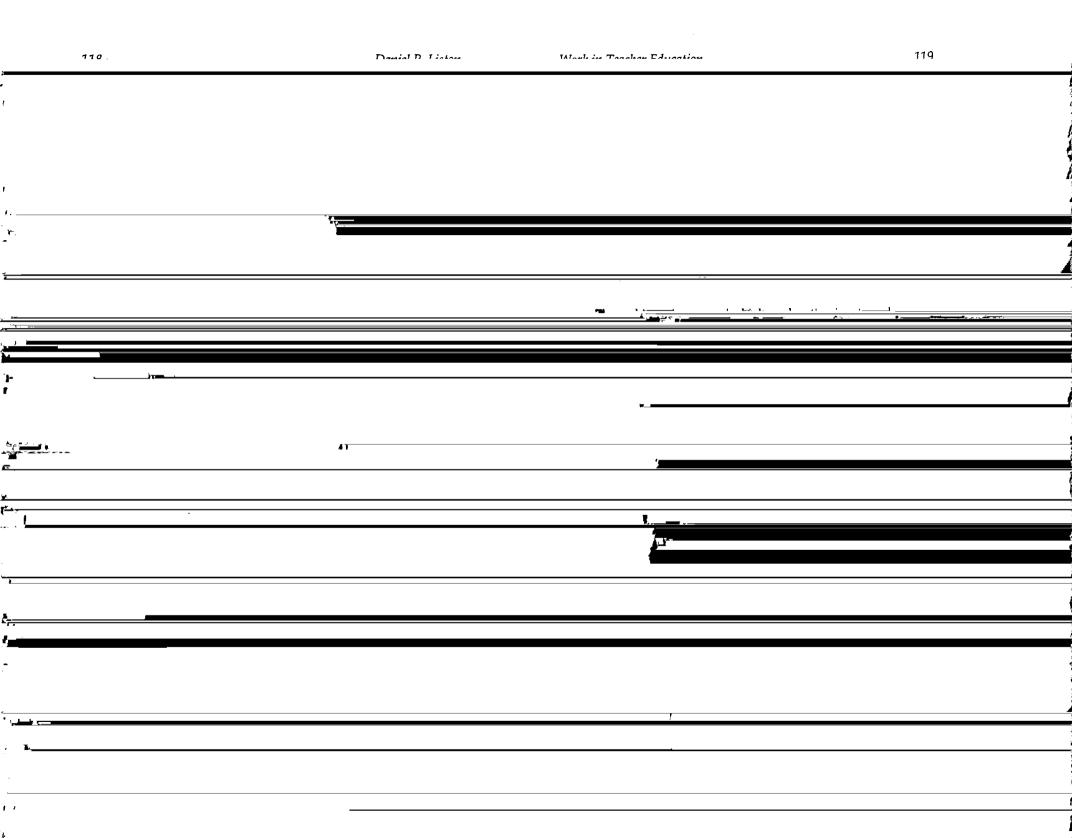
lately I have been struggling to find a vantage point that will balance my own desires and deal with some rather strong emotional and intellectual currents; unfortunately, I do not have a clear, resolute vision of what constitutes that perspective. I have had to realize that I need to make some choices about the kind of labor Lyvill perform when I will perform subset of

changes" in women that tend to keep them in subservient situations. She explains that in the acts of caregiving women are affirmed in some ways and diminished in others. But what goes

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experience, or elementary and secondary teachers who are on leave from their schools or on loan to the university for teacher education. The disempowerment that Bartky speaks of—





I doubt the knocks will not be answered. I could be, and I hope I am, wrong. But it seems that while changes in the landscape of teacher education and schools of education are likely, it is difficult to discern the direction and directors of that change.

NOTES

1. I would like to thank Michael Dale, Phil DiStefano, Margaret Eisenhart, Ernie House, Ken Howe, Bill McGinley, Pat McQuillan, Ofelic Michael Color Michael

"Traditions of Reform in U.S. Teacher Education" in Liston and Zeichner (1990).

- 10. See Goodlad's discussion that follows on page 152 of his book.
- 11. For an extended analysis of teaching as work, see Connell (1985).
- 12. For many people in the U.S., the phrase "domestic labor" has an odd ring to it. Frequently, when I use the term people unfamiliar with labor analysis cock their heads trying to figure out what is being said and what type of picture is being drawn. In addition to this lack of familiarity, the problem is compounded by the fact that the literature on domestic labor is not wildly extensive. It certainly exists and MacKinnon (1989) highlights some of it; however, it is not that extensive.
 - 13 See Hochechild (1989) for further discussion and analysis of

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