

CHAMPERS, CHIPS AND CRITICALITY

CELEBRATING A HALF CENTURY

On the day that I was fifty I was busy marking GCSE papers and refused all suggestions from a friend that she would come round to ours with champagne. From our front room I saw her car arrive so I went out. She said she had a present for me. It was Stephen Kemmis the Australian academic whose short book, written with others, is known as *Towards the Socially Critical School*.

I used it a lot. Every Israeli and Palestinian schoolteacher I taught got a lot of it. Published in 1983 it remains relevant, especially so because for years the pressure upon schoolteachers has been to hit targets chosen by politicians. Often those targets have been very badly chosen.

By drawing attention to the notion of a socially critical school it also prompts questions about what might be a socially critical professional educator. The essay in the link below was written towards the end of the New Labour experiment.

http://www.criticalprofessionallearning.co.uk/assets/essay_4.pdf

The following link adds two other writers who may prompt similar reflections.

<http://www.criticalprofessionallearning.co.uk/assets/Perspectives.pdf>

After Stephen arrived I went to the chippy for something to have with the champagne. If you have not got the book (I know some have) here it is.

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED295339.pdf>

Cliff Jones April 2017