

Wasting Time at Work

A Review of Bullshit Jobs

Many of us have passed by an office building and wondered what goes on inside. Sometimes we hear a job title and aren't quite sure what it means. Reading or description or simply asking someone what the job entails can sometimes result in more obfuscation. It could be that the complexity of modern economies, the size of some organizations or the diversity of skill sets present even on a single team has created a need for people who relay messages from one party to another via email or who copy and paste between slightly different forms. They may not fully see or understand the value that they create, but their employers are paying them for a reason. David Graeber has a different explanation. In his book, *Bullshit Job*, Graeber provides offers a compelling definition of a bullshit job, evidence that they are indeed bullshit, estimates for their prevalence, accounts from people who do them, explorations of the social conditions and mindsets that give rise to and sustain their existence and considerations of the psychological effects of working a bullshit job. One may not agree with the vaguely Marxist implications of his work, but to deny the reality of bullshit jobs with retorts to business jargon or free market economic theory requires heroic defiance of the obvious.