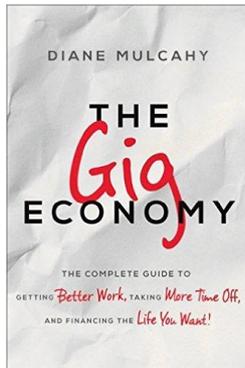

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***The Gig Economy: The Complete Guide to Getting Better Work, Taking More Time Off, and Financing the Life You Want***

Author: Diane Mulcahy Publisher: AMACOM

List Price: US\$22.00 Format: Hardcover, 237 pages

Publication Date: 2017 ISBN: [9780814437339](https://www.isbn-international.org/number/9780814437339)

Reviewer: **Rodger L. Martin** Review Date: December 2016

Introduction

The Gig Economy, of short-term assignments, contract work, and freelance jobs, is embraced by millions of people. The book offers a counter-narrative to doomsday economic reports of this phenomenon by highlighting how professionals in diverse fields can thrive. It reveals effective, long-term strategies to make the gig economy work for you.

Overview of Book's Structure

The three-part strategy as identified in the subtitle, expands into chapters devoted to each of the 10 guiding principles:

- Getting Better Work
 - Define Your Success
 - Diversify
 - Create Your Own Security
 - Connect without Networking
- Taking More Time Off
 - Face Fear by Reducing Risk
 - Take Time Off Between Gaps
 - Be Mindful About Time
- Be Financially Flexible
 - Financing the Life You Want
 - Think Access, Not Ownership
 - Save for a Traditional Retirement . . . but Don't Plan on Having One

Highlights

The author teaches this subject as an MBA course at Babson College. The Gig Economy “guides you through each step of the way as you build a career that offers autonomy, flexibility and ultimately, stability on your own terms.” In essence, the

approach, views a career of gigs the same as the basic definition of a “project” instead of expecting to work for a few companies for an extended time.

Highlights: What I liked!

As in a project methodology, risk assessment is an important consideration as examined in chapter four (Face Fear by Reducing Risk). Each chapter has extensive back-up research documented in the Notes at the end of the book. There are numerous exercises that help explain the main concepts in each chapter. The basic premise of the Gig Economy is that this is the new definition of “career” in the modern workplace.

Who might benefit from the Book?

The Gig Economy is about diversifying your skill set to take advantage of opportunities as they arise or are created by your new vision of career. It isn't about a specific project process. But for a project manager, the parallels between a gig approach and the processes we are trained to implement immediately show through.

Conclusion

The work place has changed. Nowhere is the term “project management” used, because the book is written for a broader non-project-oriented audience. However, the underlying message of “apply project methodology to your career” is clear. It is the new reality. Since the new “career” model of gigs is a series of “projects”, it would be interesting to have a review by a Program Management credential holder. Adding the diversity aspect in the “gigs/projects”, a review by a Portfolio Management credential holder would probably be insightful.

For more about this book, go to:

<http://www.amacombooks.org/book.cfm?isbn=9780814437339>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Dallas Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@pmworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



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Rodger L. Martin has a broad background in business, law, engineering and Project Management, both plan driven and Agile. He is a retired US Air Force officer with expertise in rockets and National Ranges. His work experiences include government, military, public corporations, small business consulting and high-tech non-profit organizations. For the last 15 years, he has worked on Document Management, Knowledge Management and Process Management/Modeling projects for commercial companies. He acquired his PMP certification in 2007 and his PMI-ACP in 2015. He is also a certified Mediator.

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