

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW ¹



Book Title: ***AI Project Power: Reimagining Your Role in the Age of AI***

Author: Mei Lin

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Reviewer: **Diana Owens, PMP**

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Introduction

In *AI Project Power: Reimagining Your Role in the Age of AI*, author Mei Lin offers project management professionals a thoughtful and accessible entry point into the world of artificial intelligence. Written for practitioners "who may not come from a technical background" (Lin, 2025, p. 6), the book blends personal experience with practical guidance.

As Lin describes in her preface, the work is "not just a guide to AI" but rather "a personal and professional journey of curiosity, learning and reinvention" (Lin, 2025, p. 6) — one designed to help project managers embrace an AI-driven future with confidence, curiosity, and purpose.

Lin frames AI adoption as an opportunity for growth and reinvention, positioning the project management professional not as a passive bystander to technological change, but as its driving force — one who embraces change while preserving the heart and humanity that define effective leadership. At its core, the book is a call to think more strategically, motivate those around you, and remain competitive in a rapidly evolving, AI-driven landscape.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book opens with a foreword by Lee Lambert and a preface by Lin herself, in which she establishes the personal and professional context for the work before guiding readers through six chapters that take the reader on a structured journey from

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foundational concepts to transformational practice. Lin explores what it means to adopt AI responsibly, communicate its value to stakeholders, and shape a future in which project professionals actively participate in AI-driven change rather than simply adapting to it (Lin, 2025).

It grounds readers in core AI concepts while making a compelling case for why human judgment and leadership remain irreplaceable. Subsequent chapters shift to practical territory, walking readers through some of today's leading AI tools, the Microsoft project management ecosystem explained in accessible non-technical terms, and two original frameworks designed to guide implementation — the S.E.R.I. AI Tool Evaluation Model (Lin, 2025, p. 73) and a structured six-phase AI implementation plan (Lin, 2025, p. 77).

The final chapters address two critical and often overlooked dimensions of AI adoption: legal and risk considerations, and the broader AI transformation journey for project professionals. This arc — from awareness to application to accountability — gives the book a logical and satisfying structure that serves readers at every stage of their AI journey.

Highlights

One of the book's most compelling insights is that what distinguishes effective leaders in the AI era is not technical mastery, but a growth mindset — the belief that skills, tools, and thinking can continuously evolve. Lin reframes AI adoption not as a one-time achievement or certification, but as an ongoing shift in perspective that begins with experimentation, deepens through continuous learning, and strengthens each time uncertainty is turned into insight.

For the PPM professional, this is both a liberating and motivating proposition. Whether just beginning to explore AI or already piloting tools in practice, Lin's message is clear — this journey is less about accumulating knowledge and more about growing in confidence, creativity, and the courage to lead transformation.

To anchor this evolution, Lin introduces the C.O.R.E. Leadership Model — a framework built around Curiosity, Ownership, Resilience, and Empathy (Lin, 2025, p. 100) — offering project professionals a principled foundation for leading with both technical awareness and human-centered values in the AI age.

Highlights: What I liked!

What resonates most in this book is Lin's vision of a future where project professionals are not passive recipients of AI, but active co-creators of how it is applied. Rather than framing AI as a force that automates and displaces, Lin makes a compelling case that the future of project management is one of augmentation — where human judgment, creativity, and leadership are elevated, not replaced. She goes further by addressing what responsible AI adoption actually looks like in practice, from communicating its

value to stakeholders through to shaping how it is meaningfully integrated into the PPM role.

Underpinning this vision is the C.O.R.E. Leadership Model, which Lin positions as more than a framework — encouraging readers to "let the C.O.R.E. model be your compass" (Lin, 2025, p. 130) as they navigate the complexities and opportunities of an AI-driven profession. It is a fitting metaphor for a book that consistently balances practical guidance with genuine encouragement, championing a style of leadership that "welcomes change, thinks strategically and acts with heart" (Lin, 2025, p. 130). For the PPM professional ready to take ownership of their AI journey, this is both an aspiration and a clear call to action.

Who might benefit from the Book

This book is ideally suited for Project, Program, and Portfolio Management (PPM) professionals who are curious about AI but may have little to no technical background.

It speaks directly to the practitioner who wants to harness the potential of AI without losing sight of what makes great project leadership fundamentally human. For those ready to move beyond uncertainty and build real confidence in working alongside AI, this book offers a practical and accessible starting point — one that equips PPM professionals not just to keep pace with an AI-powered world, but to lead within it, inspiring their teams and shaping how AI is meaningfully applied in their roles.

Conclusion

AI Project Power: Reimagining Your Role in the Age of AI is a timely, well-structured, and genuinely encouraging resource for project management professionals entering the AI era. Mei Lin succeeds in making a complex and fast-moving subject accessible, practical, and meaningful.

This book stands as a valuable reference for any PPM professional looking to deepen their understanding of AI's role in project management practice — and is recommended reading for those ready to engage with AI not as a threat to their role, but as a tool to explore and amplify it.

For more about this book, go to: www.fnovapublishing.com

About the Reviewer



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Diana Owens, PMP, CSM, SA, ITIL is an IT Program Manager and Agile Leader with over 17 years of experience driving enterprise-scale technology portfolios across federal government and private sectors.

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