

The Comfort Of Things Daniel Miller

Stuff The Comfort of Things Material Cultures Feeling Things Material Christianity Medieval Romance and Material Culture Design History Bodies and Artefacts: Historical Materialism as Corporeal Semiotics (2 vols.) How the World Changed Social Media Bandmaster Doing Anthropology The Dialectics of Shopping Desi Land Material History Review Materiality Home Possessions The Great World War, 1914-45 Social Media in an English Village Exotic Commodities Vernacular Architecture Newsletter Daniel Miller Daniel Miller Daniel Miller Stephanie Downes Christopher Ocker Nicholas Perkins Kjetil Fallan Joseph Fracchia Daniel Miller Simone Dennis Daniel Miller Shalini Shankar Daniel Miller Daniel Miller Peter Liddle Daniel Miller Frank Dik tter

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things make us just as much as we make things and yet unlike the study of languages or places there is no discipline devoted to the study of material things this book shows why it is time to acknowledge and confront this neglect and how much we can learn from focusing our attention on stuff the book opens with a critique of the concept of superficiality as applied to clothing it presents the theories that are required to understand the way we are created by material as well as social relations it takes us inside the very private worlds of our home possessions and our processes of accommodating it considers issues of materiality in relation to the media as well as the implications of such an approach in relation for example to poverty finally the book considers objects which we use to define what it is to be alive and how we use objects to cope with death based on more than thirty years of research in the caribbean india london and elsewhere stuff is nothing less than a manifesto for the study of material culture and a new way of looking at the objects that surround us and make up so much of our social and personal life

what do we know about ordinary people in our towns and cities about what really matters to them and how they organize their lives today this book visits an ordinary street and looks into thirty households it reveals the aspirations and frustrations the tragedies and accomplishments that are played out behind the doors it focuses on the things that matter to these people which quite often turn out to be material things their house the dog their music the christmas decorations these are the means by which they express who they have become and

relationships to objects turn out to be central to their relationships with other people children lovers brothers and friends if this is a typical street in a modern city like london then what kind of society is this it s not a community nor a neighbourhood nor is it a collection of isolated individuals it isn t dominated by the family we assume that social life is corrupted by materialism made superficial and individualistic by a surfeit of consumer goods but this is misleading if the street isn t any of these things then what is it this brilliant and revealing portrayal of a street in modern london written by one the most prominent anthropologists shows how much is to be gained when we stop lamenting what we think we used to be and focus instead on what we are now becoming it reveals the forms by which ordinary people make sense of their lives and the ways in which objects become our companions in the daily struggle to make life meaningful

this volume is an ethnographic study of material cultures incorporating local and global dimensions a team of scholars explore the changing experiences of cultures in locations as disparate as the philippines and northern ireland material culture and consumption studies have undergone something of a renaissance recently this study provides an up to date analysis of a developing field in sociological and anthropological based courses this book is intended for undergraduate ma courses on material culture and consumption within cultural studies and anthropology degree schemes

this interdisciplinary essay collection investigates the various interactions of people feelings and things throughout premodern europe it focuses on the period before mass production when limited literacy often prioritised material methods of communication the subject of materiality has been of increasing significance in recent historical inquiry alongside growing emphasis on the relationships between objects emotions and affect in archaeological and sociological research the historical intersections between materiality and emotions however have remained under theorised particularly with respect to artefacts that have continuing resonance over extended periods of time or across cultural and geographical space feeling things addresses the need to develop an appropriate cross disciplinary theoretical framework for the analysis of objects and emotions in european history with special attention to the need to track the shifting emotional valencies of objects from the past to the present and from one place and cultural context to another the collection draws together an international group of historians art historians curators and literary scholars working on a variety of cultural literary visual and material sources objects considered include books letters prosthetics religious relics shoes stone and textiles many of these have been preserved in international galleries museums and archives while others have remained in their original locations even as their contexts have changed over time the chapters consider the ways in which emotions such as despair fear grief hope love and wonder become inscribed in and ascribed to these items producing emotional objects of significance and agency such objects can be harnessed to create affirm or express individual relationships as for example in religious devotion and practice or in the construction of cultural communal and national identities

this collection of essays offers a series of rigorously focused art historical historical and philosophical studies that examine ways in which materiality has posed and still poses a religious and cultural problem the volume examines the material agency of objects artifacts and

environments art ritual pilgrimage food and philosophy it studies the variable senses of materiality the place of materiality in the formation of modern western religion and its role in christianity s dialogue with non western religions the essays present new interpretations of religious rites and outlooks through the focus on their material components they also suggest how material engagement theory a new movement in cultural anthropology and archeology may shed light on the cultural history of christianity in medieval and early modern europe and the americas it thus fills an important lacuna in the study of western religion by highlighting the longue durée from the middles ages to the modern period of a current dilemma namely the divide between materialistic and what might broadly be called hermeneutical or cultural critical approaches to religion and human subjectivity

studies of how the physical manifests itself in medieval romance and medieval romances as objects themselves medieval romance narratives glitter with the material objects that were valued and exchanged in late medieval society lovers rings and warriors swords holy relics and desirable or corrupted bodies romance however is also a genre in which such objects make meaning on numerous levels and not always in predictable ways these new essays examine from diverse perspectives how romances respond to material culture but also show how romance as a genre helps to constitute and transmit that culture focusing on romances circulating in britain and ireland between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries individual chapters address such questions as the relationship between objects and protagonists in romance narrative the materiality of male and female bodies the interaction between visual and verbal representations of romance poetic form and manuscript textuality and how a nineteenth century edition of medieval romances provoked artists to homage and satire nicholas perkins is associate professor and tutor in english at st hugh s college university of oxford contributors siobhain bly calkin nancy mason bradbury aisling byrne anna caughey neil cartlidge mark cruse morgan dickson rosalind field elliot kendall megan g leitch henrike manuwald nicholas perkins ad putter raluca l radulescu robert allen rouse

design history has become a complex and wide ranging discipline it now examines artefacts from conception to development production mediation and consumption over the last few decades the discipline has developed a diverse range of theories and methodologies for the analysis of objects design history presents the most comprehensive overview and guide to these developments the book first traces the development of the discipline explaining how it draws from art history industrial design cultural history and material culture studies the core of the book then analyses the seminal methodologies used in design history today the final section highlights the key issues concerning knowledge and meaning in design throughout the aim is to present a concise and accessible introduction to this complex field a map to the intellectual landscape of design history the book will be an invaluable guide for students and a very useful reference for scholars

in a seemingly offhand often overlooked comment karl marx deemed human corporeal organisation the first fact of human history following marx s corporeal turn and pursuing the radical implications of his corporeal insight this book undertakes a reconstruction of the corporeal foundations of historical materialism part i exposes the corporeal roots of marx s materialist conception of history and historical materialist wissenschaft part ii attempts a

historical materialist mapping of human corporeal organisation suggesting how to approach human histories up from their corporeal foundations part iii elaborates historical materialism as corporeal semiotics part iv a case study of marx s critique of capitalist socio economic and cultural forms reveals the corporeal foundations of that critique and the corporeal depth of his vision of human freedom and dignity

how the world changed social media is the first book in why we post a book series that investigates the findings of anthropologists who each spent 15 months living in communities across the world this book offers a comparative analysis summarising the results of the research and explores the impact of social media on politics and gender education and commerce what is the result of the increased emphasis on visual communication are we becoming more individual or more social why is public social media so conservative why does equality online fail to shift inequality offline how did memes become the moral police of the internet supported by an introduction to the project s academic framework and theoretical terms that help to account for the findings the book argues that the only way to appreciate and understand something as intimate and ubiquitous as social media is to be immersed in the lives of the people who post only then can we discover how people all around the world have already transformed social media in such unexpected ways and assess the consequences

this textbook is written by well established anthropology professors for and with their undergraduate students it explores what anthropological thinking is what anthropological approaches are and how these are applied in real world settings it provides a thorough introduction to key methods theories and the disciplinary value of contemporary anthropology this book deliberately steps beyond the standard textbook format undergraduate students reveal the processes by which they came to understand and apply anthropological knowledge using everyday experiences and common life events as examples while also showcasing the practical learning that student authors produced as a result of understanding and operationalising those processes this fresh take showcases what can be done with anthropological knowledge not what you can do with anthropology when you ve achieved the rank of professor this book is accompanied by practical exercises and podcasts that relate to each of the chapters podcasts extend beyond the textbook as live resources with episodes on a regular basis this is an accessible lively active text that prepares students to outbound disciplinary knowledge this unique and engaging textbook will be core reading for undergraduate anthropology students as well as a source of teaching inspiration for lecturers of undergraduate anthropology units it would also be a useful text for undergraduate students conducting ethnographic research

this text explores the many contradictions faced by shoppers on a typical london street and in the process offers a sophisticated examination of the way we shop and what it reveals about our relationships to our families and communities as well as to the environment and the economy as a whole

an ethnography of south asian american teenagers in silicon valley

a collection of essays rethinking the current uses of material culture study in anthropology

including engagements with art science and technology

although so much of the life we care about takes place at home this private space often remains behind closed doors and is notoriously difficult for researchers to infiltrate we may think it is just up to us to decorate transform and construct our homes but in this book we discover a new form of estate agency the active participation of the home and its material culture in the construction of our lives what do the possessions people choose to take with them when moving say about who they are and should we emphasize the mobility of a move or the stability of what movers take with them how is the home an active partner in developing relationships why are our homes sometimes haunted by ghosts this intriguing book is a rare behind the scenes exposé of the domestic sphere across a range of cultures examples come from working class housewives in norway a tribal society in taiwan a museum in london tenants in canada and students from greece to produce a genuinely comparative perspective based in every case on sustained fieldwork so japan long thought to be a nation that idealizes uncluttered simplicity is shown behind closed doors to harbour illicit pockets of disorganization while the warmth inside romanian apartments is used to expel the presence of the state representing a vital development in the study of material culture this book clearly shows that we may think we possess our homes but our homes are more likely to possess us

the emphasis of this book is on the human experience that binds together the history of the two world wars v 2 the peoples experience the cultural experience the moral experience reflections

daniel miller spent 18 months undertaking an ethnographic study with the residents of an english village tracking their use of the different social media platforms following his study he argues that a focus on platforms such as facebook twitter and instagram does little to explain what we post on social media instead the key to understanding how people in an english village use social media is to appreciate just how english their usage has become he introduces the goldilocks strategy how villagers use social media to calibrate precise levels of interaction ensuring that each relationship is neither too cold nor too hot but just right

exotic commodities is the first book to chart the consumption and spread of foreign goods in china from the mid nineteenth century to the advent of communism in 1949 richly illustrated and revealing this volume recounts how exotic commodities were acquired and adapted in a country commonly believed to have remained hostile toward alien things during the industrial era china was not immune to global trends that prized the modern goods of civilized nations foreign imports were enthusiastically embraced by both the upper and lower classes and rapidly woven into the fabric of everyday life often in inventive ways scarves skirts blouses and corsets were combined with traditional garments to create strikingly original fashions industrially produced rice sugar wheat and canned food revolutionized local cuisine and mass produced mirrors were hung on doorframes to ward off malignant spirits frank dik tter argues that ordinary people were the least inhibited in acquiring these products and therefore the most instrumental in changing the material culture of china landscape paintings door leaves and calligraphy scrolls were happily mixed with kitschy oil paintings and modern advertisements old and new interacted in ways that might have seemed incongruous to outsiders but were perfectly harmonious to local people this pragmatic attitude would eventually lead to china s own mass production and export

of cheap modern goods which today can be found all over the world the nature of this history raises the question which dik tter pursues in his conclusion if the key to surviving in a fast changing world is the ability to innovate could china be more in tune with modernity than europe

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