



The Saturated Self: Dilemmas Of Identity In Contemporary Life

Kenneth J. Gergen

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Today's ever-expanding communications technologies force us to relate to more people and institutions than ever before, challenging the way we view ourselves and our relationships. This powerful and provocative book draws from a wide range of disciplines—from anthropology to psychoanalysis, from film and fiction to literary theory—to explore these profound changes in our understanding of self-identity and their implications for cultural and intellectual life.

The Saturated Self: Dilemmas Of Identity In Contemporary Life Details

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From Reader Review The Saturated Self: Dilemmas Of Identity In Contemporary Life for online ebook

Kelly says

Cultural studies at its finest.

Frank Ly says

Very enlightening. A recommended read for all.

Vin W. Dreverhaven says

Con las tecnologías actuales, el "otro" está presente y con nosotros en todo momento, al alcance del wifi. En nuestra época somos bombardeados con creciente intensidad por las imágenes y acciones ajenas, y nuestra cuota de participación social ha aumentado en forma exponencial. Con las redes sociales, absorbemos las opiniones, valores y perspectivas de otros, y vivimos en nuestra escena (virtual) los múltiples libretos en los que somos protagonistas, co-protagonistas, antagonistas o extras.

La vida deja de ser real si no se ha publicado en facebook, las vacaciones no valen lo mismo si no las hemos filmado o retratado, la comida sabe mejor si recibe Likes. Las personas prefieren interactuar con la realidad a través de sus pantallas portátiles porque, después de todo, la experiencia virtual cada vez es más parecida a la vida real, si bien más efímera, exprés y superflua.

(Adaptado de la tesis principal de este libro).

M B says

Prescient

Kris Cadwell says

so far a very straightforward book about post-modern conceptions of the self

Kirk Miller says

Very insightful.

JBedient says

I have to admit - I can't get enough POMO! I know, slap me, and slap me again for using the cheesy abbreviation of the term, but it's the truth... I thought I had my fill back in the 90's, but now I have a pile of books from the library and most of them are POMO-themed, some of them I've already read and some of them are new to me...

The Saturated Self is one of the rereads. I read it around '95 and remembered only that I liked it enough to remember it without disdain. Now, having reread it I can say that the book is a great middle-ground overview of the Self living in a Postmodern world.

The book is a great Psychological dissection of certain modern constructs that influence our psyche: gotta love the picture inside of the Playboy cover of Jessica Rabbit. Underneath the picture the author asks "When one's erotic interests are aroused by the body of Toontown's Jessica Rabbit...are these interests still human?" Hmmm? That's a deep question... no sarcasm there, really, it is... and that's just one of many questions you'll find yourself wondering about inside this great book.

The writing style is also pretty general and reader friendly without being bland. Gergen avoids all the pedantic pitfalls that most POMO books fall into: mainly run-on sentences.

Highly recommended if your here wondering what you should read next on the overwritten subject of POMO - you should read this... and besides, who can resist the subtitle: Dilemmas of Identity in Contemporary Life...

Brian says

Reading this book sparked a personal intellectual revolution when I read it back in 1991. I'm still trying to work through all the implications.

Kristen says

Liked the ideas, but the book could have been condensed into two chapters.

Rita says

A really great read--surprisingly engaging and salient. My only complaint was that, like many scholarly texts, it fell apart at the end.

Kate says

Are people still talking about post-modernism in graduate school? Or are we onto something else now? This

book could be Post-Modernism and You. It's an introductory work explaining how the post modern world affects individual identity, or at least how that worked in the 1990's. Not sure if we're still working on this, but if we are, five stars!

David Kirschner says

One of those rare social science books that blew my mind, and I read it 22 years after it was published. Highly relevant commentary on the self in postmodern society. Take Gergen's discussions and use your brain to apply them to today. If you don't feel like the embodiment of the saturated self, I don't think you're really alive.
