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The Art of Listening

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Abstract or Description

Our culture is one that speaks rather than listens. From reality TV to political rallies, there is a clamour to narrate, and to receive attention. It reduces 'reality' to revelation and voyeurism.

The Art of Listening argues that this way of life is having severe and damaging consequences in a world that is increasingly globalized and interconnected. It addresses the question: how can we listen more carefully? Cultural theory is combined with real stories from the experiences of the desperate stowaways who hide undercarriages of jet planes in order to seek asylum, to the young working-class people who use tattoos to commemorate a lost love.

The Art of Listening shows how sociology is in a unique position to record 'life passed in living' and to listen to complex experiences with humility and ethical care, providing a resource to understand the contemporary world while pointing to the possibility of a different kind of future.

'This is a wise and human piece of writing, concerned to break out of sociology's academic straitjacket and to reach a wider audience. . . If anything can recover the somewhat tarnished reputation of sociology amongst the general public, then it is a book like this.' New Humanist

'The Art of Listening is a rare book in its commitment to vitalize an ethical, global sociology for the twenty-first century. Students are encouraging their parents to read it. Everyone needs this book -- especially jaded academics.' Sanjay Sharma, British Journal of Sociology - See more at: <http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-art-of-listening-9781845201210/#sthash.h1pRz35T.dpuf>

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