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Cultural Theory and Late Modernity

London: Sage 1995
312 pp.

This wide-ranging text offers an original overview of contemporary cultural theory. Drawing together a wealth of different traditions and approaches, it demonstrates the breadth of the field of cultural theory and proposes a multi-dimensional model for understanding culture in late modernity. In assessing the scope of cultural theory, four main issues in contemporary thought are distinguished:

- the analysis of modernity and modernization, including the concept of late modernity
- the critique of contemporary societies: public and private spheres, power and resistance, institutions and social movements, taste hierarchies and subcultures
- the interpretation of cultural symbols: how texts, styles, genres and media produce meaning
- the formation of selves and subjects: socialization, identity, authenticity and reflexivity

Weaving from these varied strands an integrated understanding of the late modern cultural condition, the book offers insights on the work of, among many others, Habermas, Ricoeur, Bourdieu, Laplanche and Kristeva. It is also published in Finnish.

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