

The Comfort of Things



Daniel Miller

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The Comfort of Things Daniel Miller, 2008 The diversity of contemporary London is extraordinary and begs to be better understood Never before have so many people from such diverse backgrounds been free to mix and not to mix in close proximity to each other But increasingly people's lives take place behind the closed doors of private houses How can we gain an insight into what those lives are like today Not television characters not celebrities but real people How could one ever come to know perfect strangers Danny Miller attempts to achieve this goal in this brilliant exposé of a street in modern London He leads us behind closed doors to thirty people who live there showing their intimate lives their aspirations and frustrations their tragedies and accomplishments He places the focus upon the things that really matter to the people he meets which quite often turn out to be material things the house the dog the music the Christmas decorations He creates a gallery of portraits some comic some tragic some cubist some impressionist some bleak and some exuberant We find that a random street in modern London contains the most extraordinary stories Mass murderers and saints the most charmed Christmas since Fanny and Alexander and the story of how a CD collection helped someone overcome heroin Through this sensitive reading of the ordinary lives of ordinary people Miller uncovers the orders and forms through which people make sense of their lives today He shows just how much is to be gained when we stop lamenting what we think we used to be and instead concentrate on what we are becoming now He reveals above all the sadness of lives and the comfort of things

Double Homes, Double Lives? Orvar Löfgren, 2007 A rapidly growing number of double homes connect different parts of Europe in new ways The second home can be a cottage in the woods an apartment in the Costa del Sol or a restored farm house in Tuscany However other forms of double homes must be added to these landscapes of leisure There are long distance commuters who spend most of their week in an overnight flat in a caravan on a dreary parking lot or at a construction site Economic migrants dream of a house back home for vacations or retirement Dual homes come in all shapes and sizes from the caravans of touring circus artists to people turning sailboats into a different kind of domestic space This special issue of *Ethnologic Europaea* captures some dimensions of lives that are anchored in two different homes How are such lives organised in time and space in terms of identification belonging and emotion How do they in very concrete terms render material transnational lives The next issue of the journal 2008 1 will take such a comparative perspective into another direction as the authors will consider different kinds of research strategies to achieve European comparisons and to gain new cultural perspectives on European societies and everyday life

How the World Changed Social Media Daniel

Miller, Elisabetta Costa, Nell Haynes, Tom McDonald, Razvan Nicolescu, Jolynna Sinanan, Juliano Spyer, Shriram

Venkatraman, Xinyuan Wang, 2016-02-29 **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 *The Oxford Handbook of Victorian Literary Culture* Juliet John,2016-07-14 The Oxford

Handbook of Victorian Literary Culture is a major contribution to the dynamic field of Victorian studies This collection of 37 original chapters by leading international Victorian scholars offers new approaches to familiar themes including science religion and gender and gives space to newer and emerging topics including old age fair play and economics Structured around three broad sections Ways of Being Identity and Ideology Ways of Understanding Knowledge and Belief and Ways of Communicating Print and Other Cultures the volume is sub divided into nine sub sections each with its own lead essay on subjectivity politics gender and sexuality place and race religion science material and mass culture aesthetics and visual culture and theatrical culture The collection like today s Victorian studies is thoroughly interdisciplinary and yet its substantial Introduction explores a concern which is evident both implicitly and explicitly in the volume s essays that is the nature and status of literary culture and the literary from the Victorian period to the present The diverse and wide ranging essays present original scholarship framed accessibly for a mixed readership of advanced undergraduates graduate students and established scholars **Fatherhood and the British Working Class, 1865-1914** Julie-Marie Strange,2015-01-19 A

pioneering study of Victorian and Edwardian fatherhood investigating what being and having a father meant to working class people Based on working class autobiography the book challenges dominant assumptions about absent or feckless fathers and reintegrates the paternal figure within the emotional life of families Locating autobiography within broader social and cultural commentary Julie Marie Strange considers material culture everyday practice obligation duty and comedy as sites for the development and expression of complex emotional lives Emphasising the importance of separating men as husbands from men as fathers Strange explores how emotional ties were formed between fathers and their children the models of fatherhood available to working class men and the ways in which fathers interacted with children inside and outside the home She explodes the myth that working class interiorities are inaccessible or unrecoverable and locates life stories in the context of other sources including social surveys visual culture and popular fiction *Pearls of Comfort* Martina Holder-Franz,2025-08-26 Pearls are formed through time and under pressure Likewise the comfort described here arises over time and under the inevitable pressure of recognising and coping with our mortality Drawing on her deep roots in practical theology Martina Holder Franz invites us into a space where the ordinary becomes extraordinary where prayer

scripture relationships and even simple artefacts serve as vessels of divine comfort Her ability to weave together biblical exegesis theological reflection and phenomenological research is a testament to her skill as a scholar and her compassion as a minister The insights she offers are as thought provoking as they are deeply moving shedding new light on the theology of comfort This book is more than an academic achievement it is a labour of love born out of decades of pastoral care and personal reflection *Geographies of Comfort* Danny McNally, Laura Price, Philip Crang, 2020-12-29 Bringing together conceptual and empirical research from leading thinkers this book critically examines comfort in everyday life in an era of continually occurring social political and environmental changes Comfort and discomfort have assumed a central position in a range of works examining the relations between place and emotion the senses affect and materiality This book argues that the emergence of this theme reflects how questions of comfort intersect humanistic cultural political and materialist registers of understanding the world It highlights how geographies of comfort becomes a timely concern for Human Geography after its cultural emotional and affective aspects More specifically comfort has become a vital theme for work on mobilities home environment and environmentalism sociability in public space and the body Comfort is recognized as more than just a sensory experience through which we understand the world its presence absence and pursuit actively make and un make the world In light of this recognition this book engages deeply with comfort as both an analytic approach and an object of analysis This book offers international and interdisciplinary perspectives that deploys the lens of comfort to make sense of the textures of everyday life in a variety of geographical contexts It will appeal to those working in human geography anthropology feminist theory cultural studies and sociology *Material Cultures* Daniel Miller, 1998-02-17 A collection of essays which present a balanced survey between theoretical discussions on the one hand and case study research on the other This volume is an ethnographic study of material cultures *New Statesman* ,2008 *The Comfort of Things* Daniel Miller, 2008 **Ethnologia Europaea Journal of European Ethnology** Tom O'Dell, Robert Willim, 2012-03-26 Ethnography has become something of a buzzword in recent years It is talked about and invoked in disciplines ranging from anthropology and ethnology to literature history business administration and design studies Textbooks that teach ethnography tend to imbue students with the impression that ethnography is a mode of systematic investigation by which the researcher gets closer to the realities of people s everyday lives But how straightforward are these processes in reality As ethnography spreads into new folds of research both within and without the academy the contributions in this volume demonstrate the manner in which field methods are adjusting transforming or taking new forms altogether If textbooks might lead students to believe that observations and interviews are the grounds upon which good ethnography can regularly be produced the authors in this volume take as their point of departure the realisation that ethnography is being used in a multitude of different contexts which forces them and us as readers to question the regularities and irregularities of their own work *Blueprint* ,2010 *The Spectator* ,2008 **Social Media in an English Village** Daniel Miller, 2016-02-29 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 *Blue Jeans* Daniel Miller, Sophie Woodward, 2012-02 Focuses on an everyday item blue jeans to learn what one simple article of clothing can tell us about our individual and social lives and challenging by extension the foundational anthropological presumption of the normative *Prospect*, 2008 Locating Life Stories Maureen Perkins, 2012-09-30 The thirteen essays in this volume come from Australia China India Indonesia Iraq Malaysia South Africa and Hawai i With a shared focus on the specific local conditions that influence the ways in which life narratives are told the authors engage with a variety of academic disciplines including anthropology history media studies and literature to challenge claims that life writing is an exclusively Western phenomenon Addressing the common desire to reflect on lived experience the authors enlist interdisciplinary perspectives to interrogate the range of cultural forms available for representing and understanding lives Contributors Maria Faini Kenneth George Philip Holden David T Hill Craig Howes Bryan Kuwada Kirin Narayan Maureen Perkins Peter Read Tony Simoes da Silva Mathilda Slabbert Gerry van Klinken Pei yi Wu **The Life Biography of Artefacts and Ritual Practice** Mathias Bjørnevad-Ahlqvist, Peter Bye-Jensen, 2020 In this conference proceedings we showcase how one can generate data to use in the creation of life biographies for prehistoric artefacts and the ritual practices they are a part of This book includes case studies spanning the Mesolithic Bronze Age from Eastern Central Northern and Western Europe **CCS Readers: Perspectives on Art and Culture** Johanna Burton, Lynne Cooke, Josiah McElheny, 2012-04-06 Encounters with art engage various conditions of interiority whether through psychic spaces or specific physical environments such as museums and private residences The exhibition If you lived here you d be home by now presented at the Hessel Museum of Art CCS Bard in 2011 was the catalyst for the current volume providing a paradigmatic case study for probing issues of the personal and subjective within realms of the sociological and the cultural Through diverse discursive modes commissioned essays conversations and talks historical writings and artistic projects this anthology the first CCS Readers volume examines the poetics and politics of interior experience within the frame of contemporary art Contributors Anni Albers Doug Ashford Gaston Bachelard Angelo Bellfatto Nova Benway Gregg Bordowitz Johanna Burton Theresa Choi Beatriz Colomina Lynne Cooke Moyra Davey Tom Eccles Diana Fuss Jennifer Gross Elizabeth Grosz Roni Horn Jenny Jaskey Susanne K per Elisabeth Lebovici Nathan Lee Zoe Leonard Dorit Margreiter Josiah McElheny Helen Molesworth Georges Perec Juliane Rebentisch David Reed Lisa Robertson Joel Sanders Virginia Woolf Amy Zion **Boot and Shoe Recorder**, 1898

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