

The meaning of things

Domestic symbols and the self



**Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
& Eugene Rochberg-Halton**

The Meaning Of Things Domestic Symbols And The Self

**Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Eugene
Rochberg-Halton**



The Meaning Of Things Domestic Symbols And The Self:

The Meaning of Things Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Eugene Rochberg-Halton, Eugene Halton, 1981-10-30 The meaning of things is a study of the significance of material possessions in contemporary urban life and of the ways people carve meaning out of their domestic environment Drawing on a survey of eighty families in Chicago who were interviewed on the subject of their feelings about common household objects Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and Eugene Rochberg Halton provide a unique perspective on materialism American culture and the self They begin by reviewing what social scientists and philosophers have said about the transactions between people and things In the model of personhood that the authors develop goal directed action and the cultivation of meaning through signs assume central importance They then relate theoretical issues to the results of their survey An important finding is the distinction between objects valued for action and those valued for contemplation The authors compare families who have warm emotional attachments to their homes with those in which a common set of positive meanings is lacking and interpret the different patterns of involvement They then trace the cultivation of meaning in case studies of four families Finally the authors address what they describe as the current crisis of environmental and material exploitation and suggest that human capacities for the creation and redirection of meaning offer the only hope for survival A wide range of scholars urban and family sociologists clinical developmental and environmental psychologists cultural anthropologists and philosophers and many general readers will find this book stimulating and compelling

The Meaning of Things Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, 1981 The meaning of things is a study of the significance of material possessions in contemporary urban life and of the ways people carve meaning out of their domestic environment Drawing on a survey of eighty families in Chicago who were interviewed on the subject of their feelings about common household objects Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and Eugene Rochberg Halton provide a unique perspective on materialism American culture and the self They begin by reviewing what social scientists and philosophers have said about the transactions between people and things In the model of personhood that the authors develop goal directed action and the cultivation of meaning through signs assume central importance They then relate theoretical issues to the results of their survey An important finding is the distinction between objects valued for action and those valued for contemplation The authors compare families who have warm emotional attachments to their homes with those in which a common set of positive meanings is lacking and interpret the different patterns of involvement They then trace the cultivation of meaning in case studies of four families Finally the authors address what they describe as the current crisis of environmental and material exploitation and suggest that human capacities for the creation and redirection of meaning offer the only hope for survival A wide range of scholars urban and family sociologists clinical developmental and environmental psychologists cultural anthropologists and philosophers and many general readers will find this book stimulating and compelling <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/description/cam022/81001443.html>

The Meaning of Things Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Eugene

Rochberg-Halton,1987 The Domestic Interior and the Self in Contemporary Photography Jane Simon,2023-09-18 By carefully conceptualising the domestic in relation to the self and the photographic this book offers a unique contribution to both photography theory and criticism and life narrative studies Jane Simon brings together two critical practices into a new conversation arguing that artists who harness domestic photography can advance a more expansive understanding of the autobiographical Exploring the idea that self representation need not equate to self portraiture or involve the human form artists from around the globe are examined including Rinko Kawauchi Catherine Opie Dayanita Singh Moyra Davey and Elina Brotherus who maintain a personal gaze at domestic detail By treating the representation of interiors domestic objects and the very practice of photographic seeing and framing as autobiographical gestures this book reframes the relationship between interiors and exteriors public and private and insists on the importance of domestic interiors to understandings of the self and photography The book will be of interest to scholars working in photographic history and theory art history and visual studies

Feeling Things Stephanie Downes,Sally Holloway,Sarah Randles,2018 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

"Fashion, Interior Design and the Contours of Modern Identity " Alla Myzelev,2017-07-05 Challenging the notion that fashion and furniture were or are separate enterprises and distinct material aesthetic traditions this collection focuses on three material and conceptual links central to understanding the relationship between interior design and fashion the body fabric and space The volume considers the changing visual material and spatial

character methodological challenges posed by and formal political and historiographical significance of a wide range of British European and North American case studies since the eighteenth century The volume s eleven case studies allow the reader to understand connecting notions behind the formation of interiors and fashionable clothing The essays combine a wide range of significant and challenging new examples alongside powerful reversionary analyses of the various periods artists designers and their best and significant objects Fashion Interior Design and the Contours of Modern Identity is concerned not only with fabric but also with the body and the implications of embodiment in the practices of both design domains which are equally invested in the comfort aesthetic pleasure extension and support of the body in different and yet seemingly identical ways **Philosophical and Cultural Theories of Music** Eduardo De La Fuente,Peter Murphy,2010

This collection brings together philosophers sociologists musicologists and students of culture who theorize music through cultural practices as diverse as opera and classical music jazz and pop avant garde and DIY musical cultures music festivals and isolated listening through the iPod rock in urban heritage and the piano in East Asia **Home Informatics and Telematics: ICT for the Next Billion** Alladi Venkatesh,Timothy Gonzalves,Andrew Monk,Kathy Buckner,2007-11-15 This volume represents the papers reviewed and accepted for the HOIT2007 conference held at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras IIT M in the city of Chennai India in August 2007 The conference entitled Home Community Oriented ICT for the Next Billion addressed many major themes of current interest in this field In particular the focus was on community based technologies The conference was organized by IFIP working Group 9 3 Home Oriented Informatics and Telematics HOIT in association with the TeNeT Group of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras The conference papers cover a wide range of topics that transcend local national themes and engage us in global issues This was the first time the HOIT conference was held outside Europe or North America testifying to the growth and development of other regions of the world The conference included paper sessions panel discussions special keynote speaker presentations and poster sessions The topics were grouped under different themes Following are the five basic themes of the conference and a brief description of the papers that appear under each theme Empowerment and Digital Divide In their comparative analysis of South Africa and India Joseph and Andrew show how ICTs can have dramatic impact in two key areas alleviating poverty for rural women and achieving socio economic development goals In the next piece Malhotra and co authors discuss DesiCrew as a unique business process outsourcing BPO initiative in the context of rural areas in India **System Innovation for Sustainability**

1 Arnold Tukker,Martin Charter,Carlo Vezzoli,Eivind Stø,Maj Munch Andersen,2017-09-08 Sustainable consumption and production SCP was adopted as a priority area during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and has since become one of the main vehicles for targeting international sustainability policy Sustainable consumption focuses on formulating equitable strategies that foster the highest quality of life the efficient use of natural resources and the effective satisfaction of human needs while simultaneously promoting equitable social development economic

competitiveness and technological innovation But this is a complex topic and as the challenges of sustainability grow larger there is a need to re imagine how SCP policies can be formulated governed and implemented The EU funded project Sustainable Consumption Research Exchanges SCORE consists of around 200 experts in the field of sustainable innovation and sustainable consumption The SCORE philosophy is that innovation in SCP policy can be achieved only if experts that understand business development sustainable solution design consumer behaviour and system innovation policy work together in shaping it Sustainable technology design can be effective only if business can profitably make the products and consumers are attracted to them To understand how this might effectively happen the expertise of systems thinkers must be added to the mix System Innovation for Sustainability 1 is the first result of a unique positive confrontation between experts from all four communities It examines what SCP is and what it could be provides a state of the art review on the governance of change in SCP policy and looks at the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches The SCORE experts are working with actors in industry consumer groups and eco labelling organisations in the key consumption areas of mobility food and agriculture and energy use and housing responsible for 70% of the life cycle environmental impacts of Western societies with the aim of stimulating fostering or forcing change to SCP theory in practice The System Innovation for Sustainability series will continue with three further volumes of comprehensive case studies in each of these three critical consumption areas Each chapter of this book examines problems and suggests solutions from a business design consumer and system innovation perspective It primarily examines the differing solutions necessary in the consumer economies of the West but also comments on the differing needs in rapidly emerging economies such as China as well as base of the pyramid economies The System Innovation for Sustainability series is the fruit of the only major international research network on SCP and will set the standard in this field for some years to come It will be required reading for all involved in the policy debate on sustainable production and consumption from government business academia and NGOs for designers scientists businesses and system innovators

Consumer-Brand Relationships Susan Fournier, Michael Breazeale, Marc Fetscherin, 2012-03-29

The creation and management of customer relationships is fundamental to the practice of marketing Marketers have long maintained a keen interest in relationships what they are why they are formed what effects they have on consumers and the marketplace how they can be measured and when and how they evolve and decline While marketing research has a long tradition in the study of business relationships between manufacturers and suppliers and buyers and sellers attention in the past decade has expanded to the relationships that form between consumers and their brands such as products stores celebrities companies or countries The aim of this book is to advance knowledge about consumer brand relationships by disseminating new research that pushes beyond theory to applications and practical implications of brand relationships that businesses can apply to their own marketing strategies With contributions from an impressive array of scholars from around the world this volume will provide students and researchers with a useful launch pad for further research in this blossoming

area **Activities** Gail S. Fidler, Beth P. Velde, 1999 This book describes the content and process for exploring and studying the social cultural and personal meanings inherent in activities Authored by Gail Fidler and Beth Velde this text examines the potential of activities to reflect and shape social cultural and personal meanings to communicate certain physical affective and cognitive responses Activities Reality and Symbol guides the reader to a better understanding of activities and their potential in our lives by examining the processes of investigating and discovering the dynamics of daily activities By looking at activities as never before this book successfully addresses activity for its own meaning symbol and purpose This book is organized as a sequential experiential learning process that includes structural assignments for interviews personal reflections and group discussion The beginning of the text presents an overview of the philosophy and the content focus of the book Following chapters explain the symbolic process as giving meaning to the events and activities of daily life and include an activity laboratory for experiencing symbol and metaphor A detailed examination of activities and a format for analyzing activities are explained Final chapters apply prior learning to specific activities including play games sport crafts careers and more *Beyond Adornment* Yvonne J. Markowitz, Susanne Günsicke, 2025-04-01 Why do people wear jewelry What meaning does it hold for the wearer And what does the wearer hope it will convey to those they encounter or to someone viewing their image decades even centuries later Artistic renderings of the human figure in portraiture sculpture and other media in a range of allegorical historical and religious images often showcase jewelry The ornaments depicted in such designs offer an abundance of information that not only heightens our understanding of the subject but also provides insights into the imagination of the artist Jewelry enhances our enjoyment of works of art because it is visually compelling sensuous and laden with an array of associations and symbolic meanings Bringing together spectacular and significant art objects depicting figures wearing sumptuous personal adornments that define who they are within the specific milieu in which they lived this richly illustrated and accessible volume represents a novel interdisciplinary approach to the ways in which jewelry can be studied and understood *Person, Self, and Experience* John Kirkpatrick, Geoffrey Miles White, 1985

Handbook of Brand Relationships Deborah J. MacInnis, C. Whan Park, Joseph W. Priester, 2014-12-18 Brand relationships are critical because they can enhance company profitability by lowering customer acquisition and retention costs This is the first serious academic book to offer a psychological perspective on the meaning of and basis for brand relationships as well as their effects The Handbook of Brand Relationships includes chapters by well known marketing and psychology scholars on topics related to the meaning significance and measurement of brand relationships the critical connections between consumers and the brand how brand relationships are formed through both thoughtful and non thoughtful processes and how they are built repaired and leveraged through brand extensions An integrative framework introduces the book and summarizes the chapters key ideas The handbook also identifies several novel metrics for measuring various aspects of brand relationships and it includes recommendations for further research The why of Consumption S.

Ratneshwar,David Glen Mick,Cynthia Huffman,2003 In this study the authors draw from branches of psychology decision theory sociology and cultural anthropology to present a diverse selection of critical perspectives on consumer motivation

Multicultural Perspectives in Customer Behaviour Maria Piacentini,Charles Cui,2013-09-13 With globalisation taking centre stage in the business world and multiculturalism affecting markets and societies there is a need to understand the ways that customers respond to the changing marketplace from international and multicultural perspectives This book is timely in addressing important themes raised in the most recent marketing literature such as global consumer culture and the impact of Western culture on consumer behaviour in other countries consumer acculturation processes and the impact on identity conflicts and the strategies people use to manage them globalisation vs localised strategies and the interaction of local and global influences on customer behaviour climate change and global warming the impact on consumer behaviour and the implications for social responsibility and cross cultural customer research including important methodological questions around the application of sociological group level measures to psychological individual level phenomenon in marketing contexts The papers in this edition address those themes reporting on studies from a range of countries including Germany Greece China and Austria and a number of cultural groups in the UK These papers draw on quantitative and qualitative methodologies reflecting the full range of methods employed in contemporary consumer research This book was originally published as a special issue of the Journal of Marketing Management

Wellbeing and Self-Transformation in Natural Landscapes Rebecca Crowther,2018-09-20 This book explores how natural landscapes are linked to positive mental wellbeing While natural landscapes have long been represented and portrayed as transformative the link to mental wellbeing is an area that researchers are still aiming to comprehend Accompanying five groups of people to rural Scotland the author considers individual external and group motivations for journeying from urban environments examining in what ways these excursions are personally and socially transformative Far more than traversing mere physical boundaries this book illustrates the new challenges experiences territories and cultures provided by these excursions firmly anchored in the Scottish countryside In doing so the author questions the extent to which people s own narratives link to the perception that the outdoors are positively transformative and what indeed does have the power to influence transformation Grounded in extensive qualitative research this contemplative and ethnographic book will be of interest and value to students and scholars of the outdoors and its connection to wellbeing

The Relational Self Rebecca C. Curtis,1991-03-22 In recent years the traditional psychoanalytic view of the self as an autonomous entity has been shifting to a more relational perspective This evolution from a solely intrapsychic stance brings psychoanalysis closer to the viewpoint of social psychology formerly a highly divergent discipline Bridging these different literatures THE RELATIONAL SELF describes the extent and meaning of these convergences The book is divided into four sections The first two examine current perspectives from psychoanalytic self psychology and social psychology and the latter two present an integration of psychoanalytic and

social personality approaches Part One reviews the psychoanalytic theories of character structure that focus upon identity maintenance self esteem regulation and resistance to change Also presented is an interactional view of the self that explores the intersubjective context of intrapsychic experience Part Two shifts from the largely unconscious intrapsychic self to the self as affected by situational variables Considered here are the relationship between self image and attitudes the social categories deemed by people as important to their identity and the effects of physical relocation upon self concept change Part Three presents a theory of the self with separate rational and experiential processing systems and also explores cultural influences on the self from a psychoanalytic vantage point Part Four considers psychotherapy self verification and self concept change including self defeating behavior and self consistency striving the avoidance of self awareness self evaluation maintenance and self with other representations Bringing together the work of leading theorists in social psychoanalytic and personality psychology on the interaction of self organization with the social and physical environment THE RELATIONAL SELF fosters a better understanding of both situational and dispositional variables and a deeper appreciation of the changing theoretical sense of a relational self as the ultimate stage of development

The Material Culture of Writing Cydney Alexis, Hannah Rule, 2022-11-15 The Material Culture of Writing opens up avenues for understanding writing through scholarship in material culture studies Contributors to this volume each interrogate an object set of objects or writing environment to reveal the sociomaterial contexts from which writing emerges The artifacts studied are both contemporary and historical including ink a Victorian hotel visitors book Moleskine notebooks museum conservators files an early twentieth century baby book and a college campus makerspace Close study of such artifacts not only enriches understanding of what counts as writing but also offers up the potential for rich current and historical inquiry into writing artifacts and environments The collection features scholars across the disciplines such as art art history English museum studies and writing studies who work as teachers historians museum curators conservators and faculty Each chapter features methods and questions from contributors own disciplines while at the same time speaking to writing studies interest in writers writing identity and writing practice The authors in this volume also work with a variety of methodologies including literary analysis archival research and qualitative research providing models for the types of research possible using a material culture studies framework The collection is organized into three sections Writing Identity Writing Work Writing Genre each with a contextualizing introduction from the editors that introduces the chapters themselves and imagines possible directions for writing studies research facilitated by material culture studies The Material Culture of Writing serves as an accessible introduction to work in material culture studies for writing studies scholars graduate students and undergraduates especially as it makes a distinctive contribution to writing studies in its material culture studies approach Because of the interdisciplinarity of material culture studies and this volume s contributors this collection will appeal to a wide range of scholars and readers including those interested in writing studies the history of the book print culture genre studies archival

methods and authorship studies Contributors Cydney Alexis Debby Andrews Diane Ehrenpreis Keri Epps Desiree Henderson
Kevin James Jenny Krichevsky Anne Mackay Emilie Merrigan Laura R Micciche Hannah J Rule Kate Smith *The Ecology of
the Self* Stefan E. Hormuth, 1990 Addresses the question of stability and change in our concepts of ourselves The self is
described as part of an ecological system seen as a conjunction of other people environments and objects

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