

# Community in the Digital Age



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著者:Feenberg, Andrew (EDT)/ Barney, Darin (EDT)

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Is the Internet the key to a reinvigorated public life? Or will it fragment society by enabling citizens to associate only with like-minded others? Online community has provided social researchers with insights into our evolving social life. As suburbanization and the breakdown of the extended family and neighborhood isolate individuals more and more, the Internet appears as a possible source for reconnection. Are virtual communities "real" enough to support the kind of personal commitment and growth we associate with community life, or are they fragile and ultimately unsatisfying substitutes for human interaction? *Community in the Digital Age* features the latest, most challenging work in an important and fast-changing field, providing a forum for some of the leading North American social scientists and philosophers concerned with the social and political implications of this new technology. Their provocative arguments touch on all sides of the debate surrounding the Internet, community, and democracy.

## Review

A stimulating contribution from many of the world's leading commentators to the controversies surrounding the social, political, and cultural importance of online

community networks. (Brian D. Loader, editor of Information, Communication & Society)

Community in the Digital Age refreshingly updates and extends the debates about who we are when we are online. Smartly linking offline and online realities and interpretations, the authors of the essays collected here provide us with new and clear understandings of community in the information age. This book may well be considered the harbinger of the next generation of community studies. (Steve Jones, University of Illinois at Chicago)

If it's a philosophical discussion of how community is changing in the digital age that is needed, you need go no further than Andrew Feenberg and Darin Barney's collection Community in the Digital Age: it updates and extends debates about who we are when we're online, discusses differences between online and offline realities, and provides critical assessments of the Internet's relationships to public life. A challenging survey of one of the fastest-changing relationships in modern times, Community in the Digital Age should be required reading. ( The Bookwatch)

About the Author

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Andrew Feenberg is the Canada Research Chair in the Philosophy of Technology at Simon Fraser University. Darin Barney is assistant professor of communication at McGill University.

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