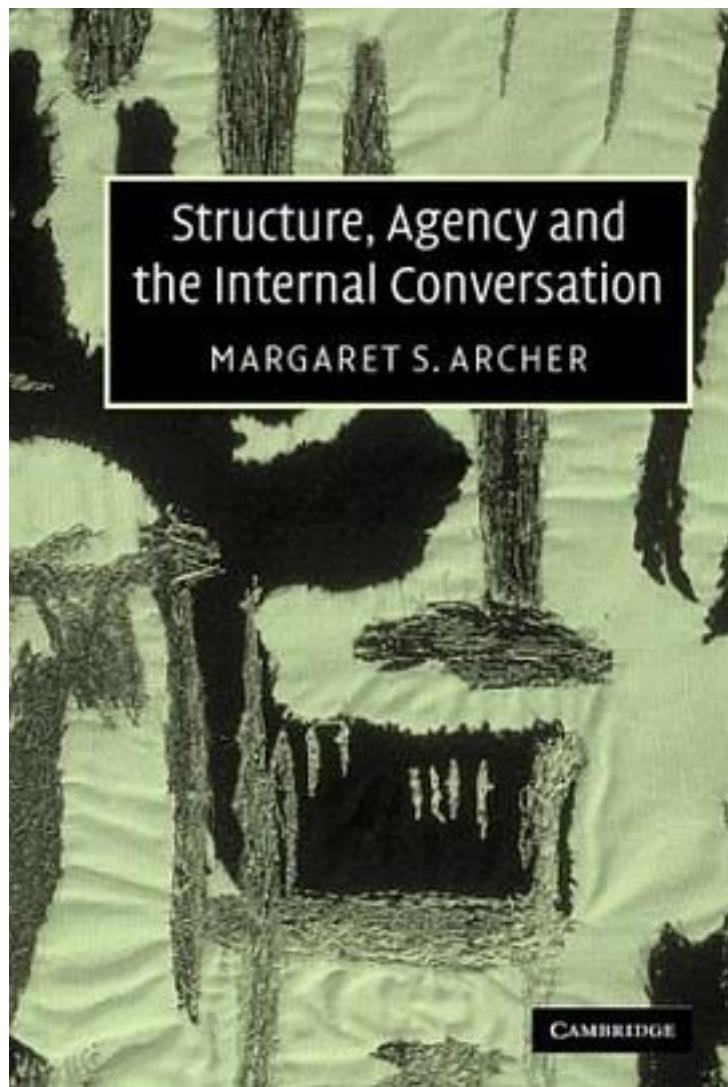


Structure, Agency and the Internal Conversation



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出版者:Cambridge University Press

出版时间:2003-09-29

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780521535977

The central problem of social theory is 'structure and agency'. How do the objective features of society influence human agents? Determinism is not the answer, nor is conditioning as currently conceptualised. It accentuates the way structure and culture shape the social context in which individuals operate, but it neglects our personal capacity to define what we care about most and to establish a *modus vivendi* expressive of our concerns. Through inner dialogue, 'the internal conversation', individuals reflect upon their social situation in the light of current concerns and projects. On the basis of a series of unique, in-depth interviews, Archer identifies three distinctive forms of internal conversation. These govern agents' responses to social conditioning, their individual patterns of social mobility and whether or not they contribute to social stability or change. Thus the internal conversation is seen as being the missing link between society and the individual, structure and agency.

作者介绍:

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标签

社会学

sociology

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批判实在论

methodology

结构

海外项目

待阅

评论

对吉登斯的结构两重性理论提出了批评式的补充。The approach of analytical dualism: 1. structure is reproduced through agency which is simultaneously constrained and enabled by structure; 2. the interdependence of structure and agency (without people there would be no structures) , and they operate on different timescales.

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