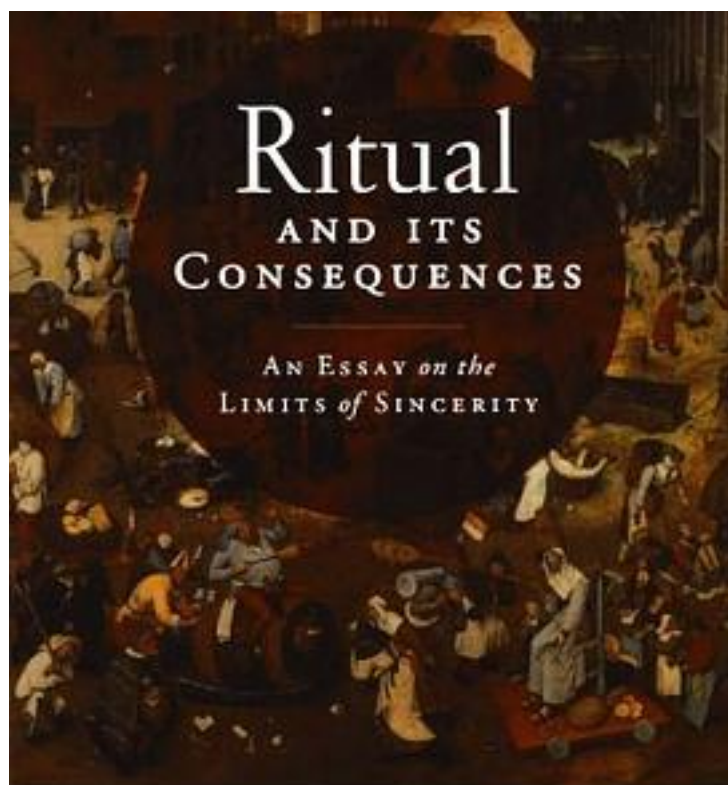


Ritual and Its Consequences



ADAM B. SELIGMAN, ROBERT P. WELLER,
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Ritual is usually understood as pointing to some essence beyond the ritual act itself. This ambitious interdisciplinary study offers a convincing challenge to this understanding. The authors begin by seeking to explain how the conventional idea arose in the first place. They locate its origin in a post-Protestant and post-Enlightenment vision of ritual action that emphasizes rituals as merely external signs of interior states. This approach, say the authors, is part of a far larger way of relating to the self and to the world, which they label "sincerity." But ritual, they say, is the very opposite of sincerity because it consists of stylized, repetitive interactions that construct an "as if" world, a world of role, propriety, play, and even fantasy, rather than pointing to the world as it actually is. In fact, that is ritual's great contribution. Ritual modes of behavior make a shared social world possible by helping to navigate between diverse people and groups, rather than attempting to transcend and efface boundaries. After setting forth this argument, the authors go on to build on it by showing how sincerity and ritual are stand-ins for two very different ways of being in the world. Although both modes are always present to some degree, modernity has deeply privileged sincerity and authenticity. And, they say, we are now paying a heavy price for this extreme and often totalizing projection of personality in contemporary political life.

作者介绍:

目录: Preface 10
Contents 14
About the Authors 16
Introduction 20
1. Ritual and the Subjunctive 34
2. Ambiguity, Ambivalence, and Boundaries 60
3. Ritual, Play, and Boundaries 86
4. Ritual and Sincerity 120
5. Movements of Ritual and Sincerity 148
Afterword 196
Notes 200
References 216
Index 230
• • • • • ([收起](#))

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标签

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社会学

文化史

ritual

评论

这书读的挺早，对于我个人而言挺重要，改变了一些长久盘踞心头的想法。

竟然一直没标

so damn good...

为博论寻找方法论的历程之一，没读懂

read it New Year this year...the idea of "subjunctive" provides a very useful way to think about ritual.

heuristic 'boundaries'

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书评

According to the book’ s discussion, previous studies on ritual are generally flawed with “a search to clarify the meanings of ritual, to show how the symbols encode and evoke systems of cultural discourse” , as well as an overly subjectivist and individua...

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