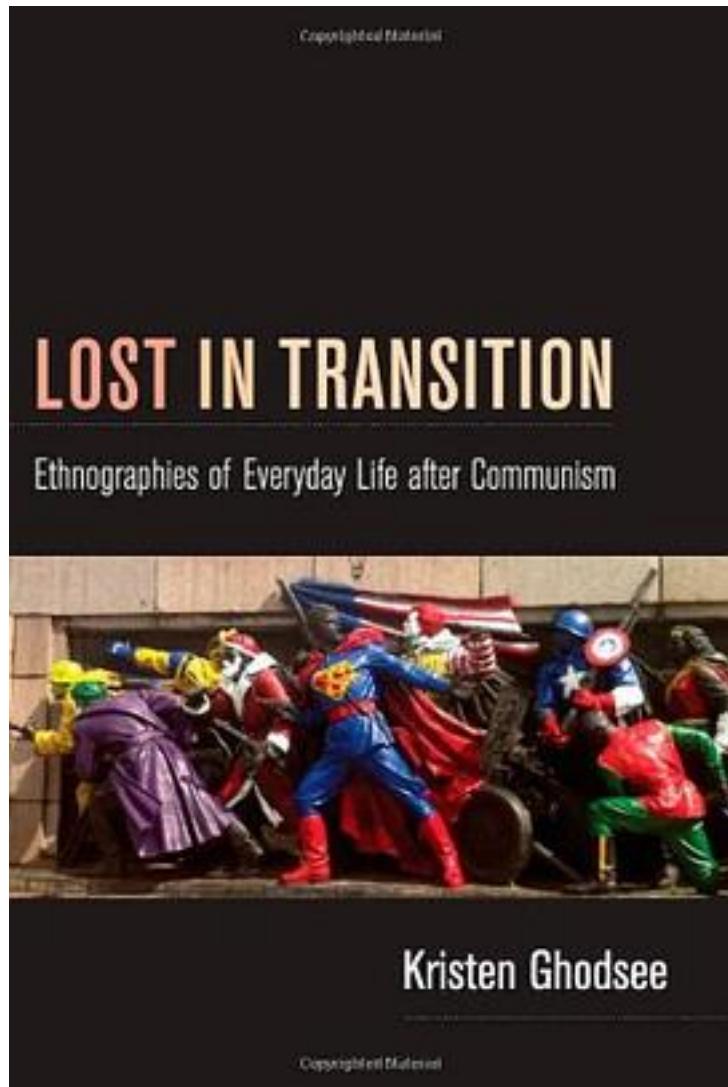


Lost in Transition



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著者:Christian Smith

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Life for emerging adults is vastly different today than it was for their counterparts even a generation ago. Young people are waiting longer to marry, to have children, and to choose a career direction. As a result, they enjoy more freedom, opportunities, and personal growth than ever before. But the transition to adulthood is also more complex, disjointed, and confusing.

In *Lost in Transition*, Christian Smith and his collaborators draw on 230 in-depth interviews with a broad cross-section of emerging adults (ages 18-23) to investigate the difficulties young people face today, the underlying causes of those difficulties, and the consequences both for individuals and for American society as a whole. Rampant consumer capitalism, ongoing failures in education, hyper-individualism, postmodernist moral relativism, and other aspects of American culture are all contributing to the chaotic terrain that emerging adults must cross. Smith identifies five major problems facing very many young people today: confused moral reasoning, routine intoxication, materialistic life goals, regrettable sexual experiences, and disengagement from civic and political life. The trouble does not lie only with the emerging adults or their poor individual decisions but has much deeper roots in mainstream American culture--a culture which emerging adults have largely inherited rather than created. Older adults, Smith argues, must recognize that much of the responsibility for the pain and confusion young people face lies with them. Rejecting both sky-is-falling alarmism on the one hand and complacent disregard on the other, Smith suggests the need for what he calls "realistic concern"--and a reconsideration of our cultural priorities and practices--that will help emerging adults more skillfully engage unique challenges they face.

Even-handed, engagingly written, and based on comprehensive research, *Lost in Transition* brings much needed attention to the darker side of the transition to adulthood.

作者介绍:

Christian Smith is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, and the Center for Social Research at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of many books, including *What is a Person?: Rethinking Humanity, Social Life, and the Moral Good from the Person Up* (Chicago 201); *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Do Not Give Away More Money* (OUP 2008); *Soul Searching: the Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (OUP 2005), Winner of the 2005 "Distinguished Book Award" from Christianity Today; and *Moral, Believing Animals: Human Personhood and Culture* (OUP 2003).

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标签

Non-fiction

Sociology

评论

通过对18-24岁美国年轻人的访问，试图了解在年轻人较为流行的道德相对主义，物质崇拜，沉溺药品和酒精，滥交形成的原因，几有趣，但书中大段引用年轻人incoherent的回答，较为啰嗦。

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书评

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