



Sociology of Culture and Cultural Practices: The Transformative Power of Institutions (New Directions in Culture and Governance)

By Laurent Fleury



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Editorial Review

Review

Not only is this an intellectually lively and thought-provoking book, it is refreshingly optimistic in its insights into and theories about how cultural institutions inform and transform cultural practices. Drawing upon both European and U.S. American histories and traditions of sociological thought, Fleury convincingly overturns deterministic notions of habitus, and argues against the idea that the project of the democratization of culture has failed. Fleury returns political and social agency to cultural institutions as actors in public policy and as places where people can experience and express new attitudes, pleasures and values. This is a book that should be read by the cultural managers of museums, art galleries, theatres and libraries, as well as by scholars of cultural sociology, cultural studies and leisure studies—indeed, it is a book to inspire anyone who is concerned about democratic access to the arts. (Danielle Fuller, University of Birmingham)

About the Author

Laurent Fleury is professor of sociology at the Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7).

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