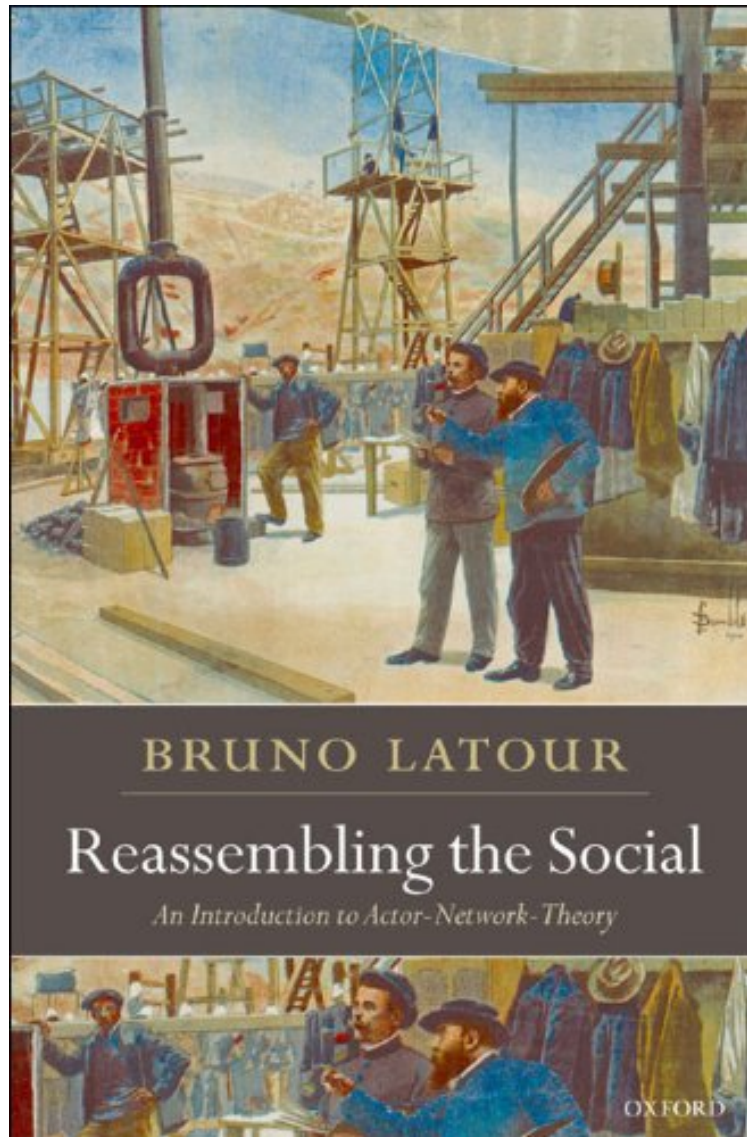


(Get free) Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory (Clarendon Lectures in Management Studies)

Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory (Clarendon Lectures in Management Studies)

Bruno Latour

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Bruno Latour : Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory (Clarendon Lectures in Management Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory (Clarendon Lectures in Management Studies):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed reading the bookBy chain noyI really enjoyed

reading the book, and I congratulate Latour for its publication. I see the book as more or less basic text that conveys the main ideas with which Latour has been playing for some while now. The book is highly accessible and thought-provoking (i.e. inspiring), and I found myself marking more and more lines and citations therein while reading. So I liked it and it got to me; mainly this is the social-material or social-technological re-assemblage idea that Latour has been promoting, and it allowed me to freely so systems as complex and hybrid in a way that I didn't see/phantom before. So it helped me in terms of my own conceptualization and academic writing on these topics. Also in terms of the distribution of agencies across times and places, and across human and non-human agents. So all this is good and inspiring for intellectual and scholarly research. At least this is how I found the book. Finally, I think that academic and related books are, or at least can be, scholarly inspiring not only in terms of what they have/contain or give in a direct and positive sense; but also in terms of how they enrich my academic wonderings. One way for me to note this is how I'm excited by reading the book, how many (new) ideas come to my mind, and if they infiltrate my scholarly daydreaming — if I can call it this way. And this manuscript has certainly done all this work. So I like it and recommend it. I should say that I got to read it after being quite familiar with the literature and having researched and published myself. So in this sense it's hard for me to say how the book would be understood and received by, say, undergraduate audience, or even graduate audiences who are not familiar with the topics. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. "Introduction" ANT it is not. By Pandora The audience for this book seems to be one of two groups: People already familiar with ANT and theorists. In this sense the title is misleading. Those looking for a more clear introduction to the concept and method are likely to be frustrated and see themselves in the dialog offered in the middle of the book. I often found myself asking how I could actually use this with little answers. That said, its commentary on the state of sociology, and in particular its call to ask us to slow down and reconsider the things we take for granted is a noble effort. However, it is one made only more frustrating by its lack of practicality. I would recommend it to any sociologists, but with some slight hesitation as I think it benefits those who are much more interested and well versed in theory than the title would imply. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Book. Important Thinking. By Jess Curtis Latour outlines the basic precepts of Actor Network Theory in a (la)tour de force. Seems like a must read at this point for anyone wanting to know what ANT is about, and generally important for anyone thinking or writing about how we understand and write about the interactions and connections that make up life. On top of it all he's charming, self-deprecating, and witty. I'm not in the social sciences per se but this book will be quite useful to me.

Reassembling the Social is a fundamental challenge from one of the world's leading social theorists to how we understand society and the 'social'. Bruno Latour's contention is that the word 'social', as used by Social Scientists, has become laden with assumptions to the point where it has become misnomer. When the adjective is applied to a phenomenon, it is used to indicate a stabilized state of affairs, a bundle of ties that in due course may be used to account for another phenomenon. But Latour also finds the word used as if it described a type of material, in a comparable way to an adjective such as 'wooden' or 'steely'. Rather than simply indicating what is already assembled together, it is now used in a way that makes assumptions about the nature of what is assembled. It has become a word that designates two distinct things: a process of assembling; and a type of material, distinct from others. Latour shows why 'the social' cannot be thought of as a kind of material or domain, and disputes attempts to provide a 'social explanations' of other states of affairs. While these attempts have been productive (and probably necessary) in the past, the very success of the social sciences mean that they are largely no longer so. At the present stage it is no longer possible to inspect the precise constituents entering the social domain. Latour returns to the original meaning of 'the social' to redefine the notion, and allow it to trace connections again. It will then be possible to resume the traditional goal of the social sciences, but using more refined tools. Drawing on his extensive work examining the 'assemblages' of nature, Latour finds it necessary to scrutinize thoroughly the exact content of what is assembled under the umbrella of Society. This approach, a 'sociology of associations', has become known as Actor-Network-Theory, and this book is an essential introduction both for those seeking to understand Actor-Network Theory, or the ideas of one of its most influential proponents.

"Valuable...richly rewards close reading." --Contemporary Sociology About the Author Bruno Latour is a Professor at the Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris. Having been trained as a philosopher, then an anthropologist, Bruno Latour specialized in the analysis of scientists and engineers at work, and published works on philosophy, history, sociology, and the anthropology of science. He is the author of *Laboratory Life* (Princeton University Press), *We Have Never Been Modern* (Harvard University Press), and *Pandora's Hope: Essays in the Reality of Science Studies* (Harvard University Press).