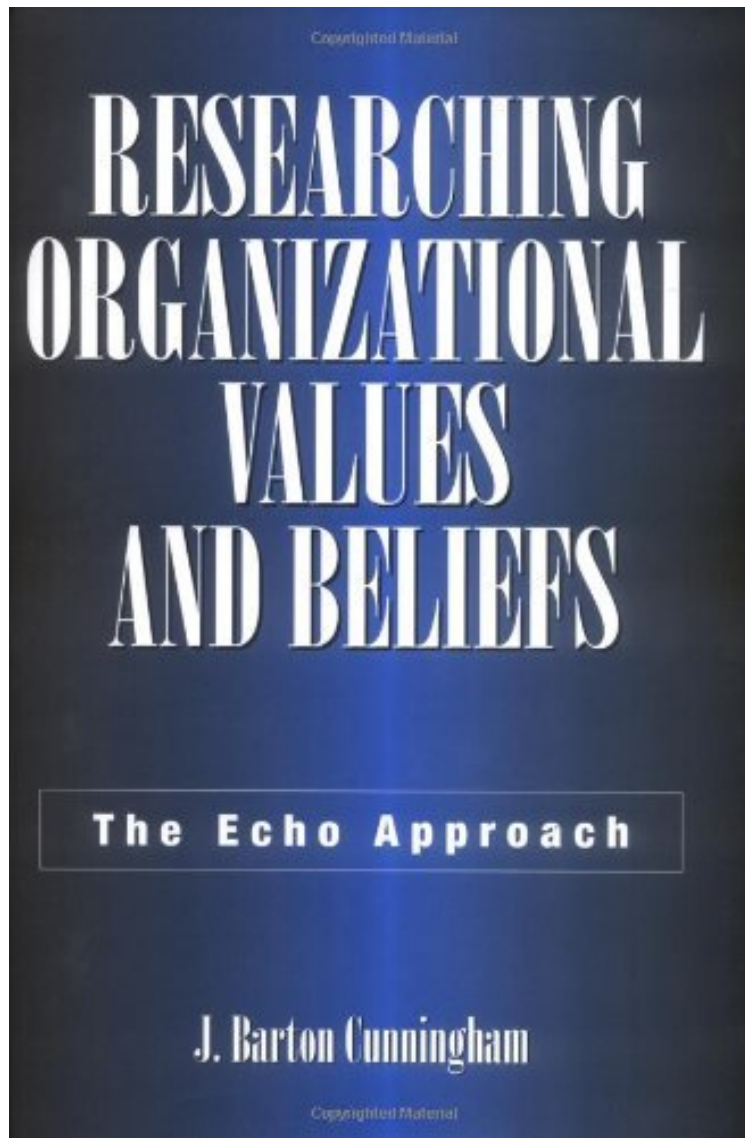


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Researching Organizational Values and Beliefs: The Echo Approach

J. Barton Cunningham

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Emerged from the Lewinian tradition of research into organizational behavior, motivation, and change, here is a conceptual but practical way for HR professionals and others in today's organizations to understand better, more

quickly and reliably, what the underlying human problems in their organizations are. Cunningham proceeds from the conviction that the key to solving organizational problems is in the hands of people, and that when people talk about the problems they experience they are reflecting their values and beliefs. The way to get people to do that is through a style of inquiry called indirect questioning--the Echo approach. This approach, which managers and executives in all types of organizations will find helpful and extensively useful is the subject of Cunningham's examination. The Echo approach is designed to bring to the surface and measure the values and beliefs held by a group of people and the organizations they comprise. Cunningham illustrates how this approach works, how to design interviews, surveys, and observations that actually echo peoples' values and beliefs--the obvious ones and those they keep hidden. Readable, well illustrated with cases and examples, this book will help executives at all levels understand better what people in these organizations are actually thinking and saying. In doing so it will help organizations become more productive and be more desirable places to work.

About the Author J. BARTON CUNNINGHAM is a professor at the School of Public Administration, University of Victoria, Canada. He holds a doctorate in management and administration from the University of Southern California and was a Visiting Scientist at the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, London, England. Dr. Cunningham is also a Director in the Center for Organizational Research and Effectiveness, University of Victoria, and has held various other appointments at the Nanyang Business School, Singapore, the Management Center, California School of Professional Psychology, and the University of Waikato, New Zealand. His various consulting assignments are spread among federal and provincial organizations in Canada.