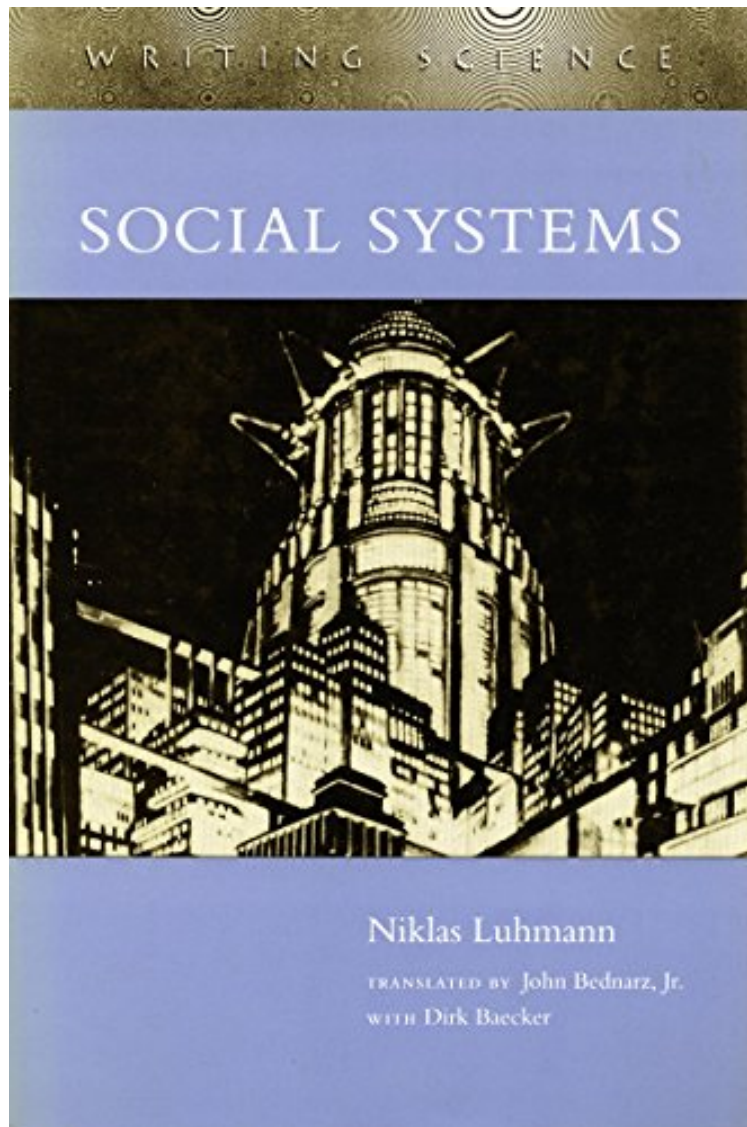


[Download] Social Systems (Writing Science)

Social Systems (Writing Science)

Niklas Luhmann

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#1174705 in Books Stanford University Press 1996 1996-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x 1.90 x 5.90l, 2.02 #File Name: 0804726256682 pages | File size: 62.Mb

Niklas Luhmann : Social Systems (Writing Science) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Social Systems (Writing Science):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great concepts but tough readingBy CustomerGreat concepts but tough reading. I slaved through this the first time and need to get through it again but I dread it. Fascinated by theory of communication and society, especially reflexivity.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Reduced ComplexityBy STOAKYYou could read this book ten times and glean new depths of meaning each time.Luhmann has been disparaged for putting people outside of social systems and for refusing to say his theory is true. As to the first

point I will simply say that Luhmann does not claim individual consciousness or psychic systems do not greatly influence social systems but rather says that individuals are not members of social systems (his definition of social systems). This leads to the second point. It may be useful when reading Luhmann to think of social systems as a construct or an observed pattern. He points to pattern he calls a social system. Rather than arguing as to the definition of a social system it may more useful to see Luhmann's use of the term social system as a pattern he and others observe. There is not an ontological argument as to what a social system IS. Luhmann mentions how any social system reduces the infinite complexity of the environment for the sake of communication. He recognized that his observations themselves are of reduced complexity and therefore attributing truth to them is not useful. My own interpretation is that he is pointing at a moon that cannot be described or even "understood" and some are arguing about what is doing the pointing rather than the direction it points. Evaluate this book based on how useful its way of thinking is and you may find a gold mine. If you find yourself arguing for or against the truth of what he is saying you may be missing the point. This book is not an easy read. A good introduction to Luhmann may be "Luhmann Explained" by Moeller. I think he misses the above-mentioned points but it is more digestible and gets to the meat of much of Luhmann's work beyond "Social Systems". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Difficult reading. By EAs soon as I figure out Luhmann, well, I'm never going to figure out Luhmann.

A major challenge confronting contemporary theory is to overcome its fixation on written narratives and the culture of print. In this presentation of a general theory of systems, Germany's most prominent and controversial social thinker sets out a contribution to sociology that reworks our understanding of meaning and communication. Luhmann concedes that there is no longer a binding representation of society within society, but refuses to describe this situation as a loss of legitimation or a crisis of representation. Instead, he proposes that we search for new ways of coping with the enforced selectivity that marks any self-description under the conditions of functionally differentiated modern society. For Luhmann, the end of metanarratives does not mean the end of theory, but a challenge to theory, an invitation to open itself to theoretical developments in a number of disciplines that, for quite some time, have been successfully working with cybernetic models that no longer require the fiction of the external observer. *Social Systems* provides the foundation for a theory of modern society that would be congruent with this new understanding of the world. One of the most important contributions to social theory of recent decades, it has implications for many disciplines beyond sociology.

"*Social Systems* presents Luhmann's startling vision of society as a self-producing or autopoietic system of communications. . . . Theories of self-reference are the way forward now in a host of disciplines the hard sciences, law, literature, psychology, and philosophy. Luhmann's reproduction within sociology of the new systems theory of self-reference vastly enriches our understanding of the possibilities of systems theory for other disciplines." (Arthur J. Jacobsen Yeshiva University) Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: German From the Back Cover *Social Systems* presents Luhmann's startling vision of society as a self-producing or autopoietic system of communications. . . . Theories of self-reference are the way forward now in a host of disciplines the hard sciences, law, literature, psychology, and philosophy. Luhmann's reproduction within sociology of the new systems theory of self-reference vastly enriches our understanding of the possibilities of systems theory for other disciplines. Arthur J. Jacobsen, Yeshiva University