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**The Sociological Imagination**

C. Wright Mills 2000-04-13 C. Wright Mills is best remembered for his highly acclaimed work The Sociological Imagination, in which he set forth his views on how social science should be pursued. Hailed upon publication as a cogent and hard-hitting critique, The Sociological Imagination took issue with the ascendant schools of sociology in the United States, calling for a humanist sociology connecting the social, personal, and historical dimensions of our lives. The sociological imagination Mills calls for is a sociological vision, a way of looking at the world that can see links between the apparently private problems of the individual and important social issues.

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**C. Wright Mills and the Sociological Imagination**

John Scott 2013-11-29 With renowned international contributors and expert contributions from a range of specialisms, this book will appeal to academics, students and researchers of sociology.

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Ismael Puga 2017-07-05 C. Wright Mills’s 1959 book The Sociological Imagination is widely regarded as one of the most influential works of post-war sociology. At its heart, the work is a closely reasoned argument about the nature and aims of sociology, one that sets out a manifesto and roadmap for the field. Its wide acceptance and popular reception is a clear demonstration of the rhetorical power of Wright’s strong reasoning skills. In critical thinking, reasoning involves the creation of an argument that is strong, balanced, and, of course, persuasive. In Mills’s case, this core argument makes a case for what he terms the “sociological imagination”, a particular quality of mind capable of analyzing how individual lives fit into, and interact with, social structures. Only by adopting such an approach, Mills argues, can sociologists see the private troubles of individuals as the social issues they really are. Allied to this central argument are supporting arguments for the need for sociology to maintain its independence from corporations and governments, and for social scientists to steer away from ‘high theory’ and focus on the real difficulties of everyday life. Carefully organized, watertight and persuasive, The Sociological Imagination exemplifies reasoned argument at its best.
The Anthem Companion to C. Wright Mills - Guy Oakes 2016-06-19 ‘The Anthem Companion to C. Wright Mills’ offers the best contemporary work on C. Wright Mills, written by the best scholars currently working in this field. Original, authoritative and wide-ranging, the critical assessments of this volume will make it ideal for Wright Mills students and scholars alike. ‘Anthem Companions to Sociology’ offer authoritative and comprehensive assessments of major figures in the development of sociology from the last two centuries. Covering the major advancements in sociological thought, these companions offer critical evaluations of key figures in the American and European sociological tradition, and will provide students and scholars with both an in-depth assessment of the makers of sociology and chart their relevance to modern society.

The New Sociological Imagination - Steve Fuller 2006-02-07 C. Wright Mills' classic The Sociological Imagination has inspired generations of students to study Sociology. However, the book is nearly half a century old. What would a book address, aiming to attract and inform students in the 21st century? This is the task that Steve Fuller sets himself in this major new invitation to study Sociology. The book: Critically examines the history of the social sciences to discover what the key contributions of sociology have been and how relevant they remain. Demonstrates how biological and sociological themes have been intertwined from the beginning of both disciplines, from the 19th century to the present day. Covers virtually all of sociology's classic theorists and themes. Provides a glossary of key thinkers and concepts. This book sets the agenda for imagining sociology in the 21st century and will attract students and professionals alike.

C. Wright Mills and the Cuban Revolution - A. Javier Treviño 2017-04-05 In C. Wright Mills and the Cuban Revolution, A. Javier Trevino reconsiders the opinions, perspectives, and insights of the Cubans that Mills interviewed during his visit to the island in 1960. On returning to the United States, the esteemed and controversial sociologist wrote a small paperback on much of what he had heard and seen, which he published as Listen, Yankee: The Revolution in Cuba. Those interviews--now transcribed and translated--are interwoven here with extensive annotations to explain and contextualize their content. Readers will be able to "hear" Mills as an expert interviewer and ascertain how he used what he learned from his informants. Trevino also recounts the experiences of four central figures whose lives became inextricably intertwined during that fateful summer of 1960: C. Wright Mills, Fidel Castro, Juan Arcocia, and Jean-Paul Sartre. The singular event that compelled their biographies to intersect at a decisive moment in the history of Cold War geopolitics--with its attendant animosities and intrigues--was the Cuban Revolution.

The Sociological Imagination - Ismael Puga 2017-07-13 C. Wright Mills's 1959 book The Sociological Imagination is widely regarded as one of the most influential works of post-war sociology. At its heart, the work is a closely reasoned argument about the nature and aims of sociology, one that sets out a manifesto and roadmap for the field. Its wide acceptance and popular reception is a clear demonstration of the rhetorical power of Wright's strong reasoning skills. In critical thinking, reasoning involves the creation of an argument that is strong, balanced, and, of course, persuasive. In Mills's case, this core argument makes a case for what he terms the "sociological imagination," a particular quality of mind capable of analyzing how individual lives fit into, and interact with, social structures. Only by adopting such an approach, Mills argues, can sociologists see the private troubles of individuals as the social issues they really are. Allied to this central argument are supporting arguments for the need for sociology to maintain its independence from corporations and governments, and for social scientists to steer away from 'high theory' and focus on the real difficulties of everyday life. Carefully organized, watertight and persuasive, The Sociological Imagination exemplifies reasoned argument at its best.

C. Wright Mills and the Ending of Violence - J. Brewer 2003-07-22 This book has two aims: to clarify the meaning of C. Wright Mills's depiction of the sociological imagination; and to use this to develop a sociological framework that assists in understanding the process by which communal violence has ended in Northern Ireland and South Africa. The contrast between these two societies is a familiar one, but the book is novel by developing an explanatory framework based on Mills's 'sociological
imaginations'. This model merges developments in the two countries at the individual, social structural and political arenas in order to account for the emergence of their peace processes.

The Social Thought of C. Wright Mills - A. Javier Trevino 2011-05-04 This inaugural volume of the Pine Forge Press Social Thinkers series provides a concise introduction to the work, life, and influences of C. Wright Mills. Accessible and provocative, this book closely examines the writings and ideas of C. Wright Mills that now, over half a century later, remain crucial in better understanding today's world. The book's primary focus is on two of his lifelong intellectual concerns: the interrelationship between social structure and personality and the bureaucratization of modern society and the power relations it produces. The book is ideal for use as a self-contained volume or in conjunction with sociological theory textbooks.

Social Theory and Nursing - Martin Lipscomb 2016-12-08 Despite noteworthy exceptions, nursing's literature largely disregards the ways in which social and sociological theory permeates, guides and shapes research, education, and practice. Likewise, social theory's ability to position nursing within wider structures of healthcare and educational provision is similarly and puzzlingly downplayed. The questions nurses ask and the problems they face cannot however, adequately be addressed without engaging with social and sociological theory and, to progress this engagement, contributors to this book explore how social theories are used by and might apply to nursing and nursing practice. The book draws on a wide range of perspectives – philosophical, theoretical, empirical and political – to offer a robust and wide-ranging critique and analysis. Social Theory and Nursing is essential reading for nursing researchers, academics and educators, as well as scholars and researchers in medical sociology, medicine and allied health.

THE POWER ELITE - C. WRIGHT MILLS 1956

C. Wright Mills and the Criminological Imagination - Dr Jon Frauley 2015-11-28 C. Wright Mills and the Criminological Imagination investigates the emergence and lineage of a criminological concept indebted to Mills' thought, adapting and applying it to a specifically criminological context. With attention to theoretical concerns, as well as the application of the criminological imagination in concrete empirical research, this volume sheds new light on the methodological and analytical aspects of the criminological imagination as a multifaceted concept, exploring the possibilities that it offers for the emergence of an imaginative criminological practice.

Understanding Terrorism - Bernard S Phillips 2015-12-03 Two fundamental problems within the social sciences are the failure to integrate the existing segments of knowledge and a very limited ability to point out directions for solving social problems, given that lack of integrated knowledge. This volume illustrates the integrated work of seven sociologists to reverse this situation not only for the problem of terrorism but also for any substantive or applied problem. C. Wright Mills in The Sociological Imagination castigated the failure to integrate social science knowledge, and this volume carries forward his efforts to analyze human complexity. To understand and confront terrorism we require not only the integration of social science knowledge bearing on that problem, as illustrated by these authors. We also require the integration of that knowledge with the understanding of those on the front lines in order to connect the dots of specialized basic and applied knowledge, which this volume makes possible.

Teenage Wasteland - Donna Gaines 1998-04-28 Teenage Wasteland provides memorable portraits of "rock and roll kids" and shrewd analyses of their interests in heavy metal music and Satanism. A powerful indictment of the often manipulative media coverage of youth crises and so-called alternative programs designed to help "troubled" teens, Teenage Wasteland draws new conclusions and presents solid reasons to admire the resilience of suburbia's dead end kids. "A powerful book."—Samuel G. Freedman, New York Times Book Review "[Gaines] sheds light on a poorly understood world and raises compelling questions about what society might do to help this
alienated group of young people."—Ann Grimes, Washington Post Book
World "There is no comparable study of teenage suburban culture . . . and
very few ethnographic inquiries written with anything like Gaines's native
gusto or her luminous eye for detail."—Andrew Ross, Transition "An
outstanding case study. . . . Gaines shows how teens engage in cultural
production and how such social agency is affected by economic
transformations and institutional interventions."—Richard Lachman,
Contemporary Sociology "The best book on contemporary youth
culture."—Rolling Stone

The Promise of Sociology—Rob Beamish 2010-08-01 Unlike most
introductory texts that take a topical approach to studying sociology, this
smart, challenging, and accessibly written text looks at the core principles
of the discipline, making links to a contemporary context. Both students and
instructors will find in these pages a fresh and original approach to teaching
sociology. Beamish begins by providing a sociological profile of today's
students, juxtaposing their collective biography against the current
historical moment. He builds on this discussion by introducing Mills's
concept of the sociological imagination and outlining a method for thinking
sociologically; then, he uses Hitchcock's film Psycho to illustrate the
difference between psychological and sociological analysis. Having
established the usefulness of sociological thinking, Beamish moves back to
the classical theorists, outlining in depth their important contributions to
sociology. He concludes the book by applying concepts from the classical
tradition to a sociological discussion of culture—ending with an analysis of
Bob Dylan's artistry to illustrate how these concepts have an enduring
quality in contemporary times.

The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, 11 Volume Set—George
Ritzer 2007-01-23 Named a Best Reference Work for 2009 by Library
Journal The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology is published in both print
and online. Arranged across eleven volumes in A-Z format, it is the
definitive reference source for students, researchers, and academics in the
field. This ground-breaking project brings together specially commissioned
entries written and edited by an international team of the world’s best
scholars and teachers. It provides: Clear, concise, expert definitions and
explanations of the key concepts An essential reference for expert and
newcomer alike, with entries ranging from short definitions of key terms to
extended explorations of major topics Materials that have historically
defined the discipline, but also more recent developments, significantly
updating the store of sociological knowledge Introductions to sociological
theories and research that have developed outside of the United States and
Western Europe Sophisticated cross-referencing and search facilities
Timeline, lexicon by subject area, bibliography, and index For further
details on advisory editors and contributors together with a list of entries,
go online to the Encyclopedia website: www.sociologyencyclopedia.com

The Stickup Kids—Randol Contreras 2013 Randol Contreras came of age in
the South Bronx during the 1980s, a time when the community was
devastated by cuts in social services, a rise in arson and abandonment, and
the rise of crack-cocaine. For this riveting book, he returns to the South
Bronx with a sociological eye and provides an unprecedented insider’s look
at the workings of a group of Dominican drug robbers. Known on the streets
as “Stickup Kids,” these men raided and brutally tortured drug dealers
storing large amounts of heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and cash. As a
participant observer, Randol Contreras offers both a personal and
theoretical account for the rise of the Stickup Kids and their violence. He
mainly focuses on the lives of neighborhood friends, who went from being
 crack dealers to drug robbers once their lucrative crack market
opportunities disappeared. The result is a stunning, vivid, on-the-ground
ethnographic description of a drug robbery’s violence, the drug market high
life, the criminal life course, and the eventual pain and suffering
experienced by the casualties of the Crack Era. Provocative and eye-
opening, The Stickup Kids urges us to explore the ravages of the drug trade
through weaving history, biography, social structure, and drug market
forces. It offers a revelatory explanation for drug market violence by
masterfully uncovering the hidden social forces that produce violent and
self-destructive individuals. Part memoir, part penetrating analysis, this
book is engaging, personal, deeply informed, and entirely absorbing.

Sport and Modern Social Theorists—Richard Giulianotti 2004-08-03 Sport
and Modern Social Theorists is an innovative and exciting new collection.
The chapters are written by leading social analysts of sport from across the world, and examine the contributions of major social theorists towards our critical understanding of modern sport. Social theorists under critical examination include Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Adorno, Gramsci, Habermas, Merton, C.Wright Mills, Goffman, Giddens, Elias, Bourdieu and Foucault. This book will appeal to students and scholars of sport studies, cultural studies, modern social theory, and to social scientists generally.

Understanding the Sociology of Health - Anne-Marie Barry 2016-09-19
Understanding the Sociology of Health continues to offer an easy to read introduction to sociological theories essential to understanding the current health climate. Up-to-date with key policy and research, and including case studies and exercises to critically engage the reader, this book shows how sociology can answer complex questions about health and illness, such as why health inequalities exist. To better help with your studies this book contains: · a global perspective with international examples; · a new chapter on health technologies; · online access to videos of the author discussing key topics as well as recommended further readings; · a glossary, chapter summaries and reflective questions to help you engage with the subject. Though aimed primarily at students on health and social care courses and professions allied to medicine, this textbook provides valuable insights for anyone interested in the social aspects of health.

The New Sociological Imagination - Steve Fuller 2006-02-07
C. Wright Mills' classic The Sociological Imagination has inspired generations of students to study Sociology. However, the book is nearly half a century old. What would a book address, aiming to attract and inform students in the 21st century? This is the task that Steve Fuller sets himself in this major new invitation to study Sociology. The book: Critically examines the history of the social sciences to discover what the key contributions of sociology have been and how relevant they remain. Demonstrates how biological and sociological themes have been intertwined from the beginning of both disciplines, from the 19th century to the present day. Covers virtually all of sociology's classic theorists and themes. Provides a glossary of key thinkers and concepts. This book sets the agenda for imagining sociology in the 21st century and will attract students and professionals alike.

The Sociological Imagination - Ismael Puga 2017-07-05
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Darwin's Dangerous Idea - Daniel C. Dennett 2014-07-01
In a book that is both groundbreaking and accessible, Daniel C. Dennett, whom Chet Raymo of The Boston Globe calls "one of the most provocative thinkers on the planet," focuses his unerringly logical mind on the theory of natural selection, showing how Darwin's great idea transforms and illuminates our traditional view of humanity's place in the universe. Dennett vividly describes the theory itself and then extends Darwin's vision with impeccable arguments to their often surprising conclusions, challenging the views of some of the most famous scientists of our day.

The Politics of Truth - John H. Summers 2008-09-11
C. Wright Mills was a radical public intellectual, a tough-talking, motorcycle-riding anarchist from Texas who taught sociology at Columbia University. Mills's three most influential books--The Power Elite, White Collar, and The Sociological
Imagination—were originally published by OUP and are considered classics. The first collection of his writings to be published since 1963, The Politics of Truth contains 23 out-of-print and hard-to-find writings which show his growth from academic sociologist to an intellectual maestro in command of a mature style, a dissenter who sought to inspire the public to oppose the drift toward permanent war. Given the political deceptions of recent years, Mills's truth-telling is more relevant than ever. Seminal papers including "Letter to the New Left" appear alongside lesser known meditations such as "Are We Losing Our Sense of Belonging?" John Summers provides fresh insights in his introduction, which gives an overview of Mills's life and career. Summers has also written annotations that establish each piece's context and has drawn up a comprehensive bibliography of Mills's published and unpublished writings.

**A Passion for Society**-Iain Wilkinson 2016-01-26 What does human suffering mean for society? And how has this meaning changed from the past to the present? In what ways does “the problem of suffering” serve to inspire us to care for others? How does our response to suffering reveal our moral and social conditions? In this trenchant work, Arthur Kleinman—a renowned figure in medical anthropology—and Iain Wilkinson, an award-winning sociologist, team up to offer some answers to these profound questions. A Passion for Society investigates the historical development and current state of social science with a focus on how this development has been shaped in response to problems of social suffering. Following a line of criticism offered by key social theorists and cultural commentators who themselves were unhappy with the professionalization of social science, Wilkinson and Kleinman provide a critical commentary on how studies of society have moved from an original concern with social suffering and its amelioration to dispassionate inquiries. The authors demonstrate how social action through caring for others is revitalizing and remaking the discipline of social science, and they examine the potential for achieving greater understanding though a moral commitment to the practice of care for others. In this deeply considered work, Wilkinson and Kleinman argue for an engaged social science that connects critical thought with social action, that seeks to learn through caregiving, and that operates with a commitment to establish and sustain humane forms of society.

**The Limits Of Privacy**-Amitai Etzioni 2008-08-05 Internationally renowned communitarian leader Amitai Etzioni presents a controversial challenge to the fundamental American belief in personal privacy at all costs.

**Employing Nietzsche's Sociological Imagination**-Jack Fong 2020-07-15 Harnessing the empowering ideas of Friedrich Nietzsche to read the human condition of modern existence through a sociological lens, this book confronts the realities of how modern social structures, ideologies, and utopianisms affect one's ability to purpose existence with self-authored meaning.

**You May Ask Yourself**-Dalton Conley 2017

**The Puerto Rican Journey**-C. Wright Mills 1967

**Study Guide**-Supersummary 2019-10-06 SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 50-page guide for "The Sociological Imagination" by C. Wright Mills includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 10 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like The Sociological Imagination and Structure.

**The Truth About Sparrows**-Marian Hale 2015-06-23 "The Wynns are an unforgettable family. The details of their struggle to survive the Great Depression will linger long after the last page has been read."-Ann M. Martin, winner of the Newbery Honor for A Corner of the Universe A stunning debut novel about the true meaning of home Sadie Wynn doesn’t want a new life; her old one suits her just fine. But times are hard in drought-plagued Missouri, and Daddy thinks they’ll be better off in Texas.
Sadie hates this strange new place, where even children must work at the cannery to help make ends meet and people are rude to her disabled father. Yet when trouble comes, it is the kindness of these new neighbors that helps the family make it through. And no one helps more than Dollie, a red-headed chatterbox of a girl who just might become a good friend—if Sadie gives her half a chance. The Truth About Sparrows is a 2005 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

**C. Wright Mills**

C. Wright Mills 2001-09-14 This collection of letters and writings, edited by his daughters, allows readers to see behind Mills's public persona for the first time.

**Toward a Sociological Imagination**

Bernard S. Phillips 2002 Builds on the ideas C. Wright Mills expressed in The Sociological Imagination for an approach to the scientific method broad enough to open up to the full range of knowledge within the sociology discipline.

**The Emerald Guide to C. Wright Mills**

A. Javier Treviño 2021-07-26 This book offers a comprehensive guide to reading and understanding the development of Mills's sociological ideas, placing them in the context of his life and his position in American sociology.

**Bully Nation**

Charles Derber 2016-05-02 Bully Nation is the most comprehensive analysis of bullying yet published. It is a brilliant book that refused to define bullying as merely a psychological concept. Instead, it addresses in great detail the interplay of bullying as having its roots in a range of historical, economic, political, and social conditions. In this instance, bullying functions as a metaphor to connect the private the public, specific acts of violence to larger forms of systemic violence. Rather than treat bullying as part of a rite of passage confined to the often difficult process of growing up, Derber and Magrass treat it as a systemic force that produces values, social relations, structures, and collective identities steeped in violence and aggression. This is a powerful and compelling book that addresses one of the most important social problems of our time.

**Death and Dying**

Glennys Howarth 2007-01-16 This stimulating new book provides a sophisticated introduction to the key issues in the sociology of death and dying. In recent years, the social sciences have seen an upsurge of interest in death and dying. The fascination with death is reflected in popular media such as newspapers, television documentaries, films and soaps, and, moreover, in the multiplying range of professional roles associated with dying and death. Yet despite its ubiquitous significance, the majority of texts in the field have been written primarily for health professionals. This book breaks with that tradition. It provides a cutting edge, comprehensive discussion of the key topics in death and dying and in so doing demonstrates that the study of mortality is germane to all areas of sociology. The book is organised thematically, utilising empirical material from cross-national and cross-cultural perspectives. It carefully addresses questions about social attitudes to mortality, the social nature of death and dying, explanations for change and diversity in approaches, and traditional, modern and postmodern experiences of death. Death and Dying will appeal to students across the social sciences, as well as professionals whose work brings them into contact with dying or bereaved people.

**White Collar**

C. Wright Mills 2002-09-26 In print for fifty years, White Collar by C. Wright Mills is considered a standard on the subject of the new middle class in twentieth-century America. This landmark volume demonstrates how the conditions and styles of middle class life—originating from elements of both the newer lower and upper classes—represent modern society as a whole. By examining white-collar life, Mills aimed to learn something about what was becoming more typically "American" than the once-famous Western frontier character. He painted a picture instead of a society that had evolved into a business-based milieu, viewing America instead as a great salesroom, an enormous file, and a new universe of management. Russell Jacoby, author of The End of Utopia and The Last Intellectuals, contributes a new Afterword to this edition, in which he reflects on the impact White Collar had at its original publication and considers what it means to our society today. "A book that persons of every level of the white collar pyramid should read and ponder. It will alert them
to their condition for their better salvation."—Horace M. Kallen, The New York Times (on the first edition)

**Philosophical Foundations of Science** - Raymond J. Seeger 2012-12-06 At the 1969 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held in Boston on December 27-29, a sequence of symposia on the philosophical foundations of science was organized jointly by Section L of the Association and the Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science. Section L is devoted to the history, philosophy, logic and sociology of science, with broad connotations extended both to 'science' and to 'philosophy'. With collaboration generously extended by other and more specialized Sections of the AAAS, the Section L program took an unusually rich range of topics, and indeed the audiences were large, and the discussions lively. This book, regrettably delayed in publication, contains the major papers from those symposia of 1969. In addition, it contains the distinguished George Sarton Memorial Lecture of that meeting, 'Boltzmann, Monocycles and Mechanical Explanation' by Martin J. Klein. Some additions and omissions should be noted: In Part I, dedicated to the 450th anniversary of the birth of Leonardo da Vinci, we have been unable to include a contribution by Elmer Belt who was prevented by storms from participating. In Part II, on physics and the explanation of life, we were unable to persuade Isaac Asimov to overcome his modesty about the historical remarks he made under the title 'Arrhenius Revisited'.

**The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work** - John Gottman, Ph.D. 2002-02-04 Just as Masters and Johnson were pioneers in the study of human sexuality, so Dr. John Gottman has revolutionized the study of marriage. As a professor of psychology at the University of Washington and the founder and director of the Seattle Marital and Family Institute, he has studied the habits of married couples in unprecedented detail over the course of many years. His findings, and his heavily attended workshops, have already turned around thousands of faltering marriages. This book is the culmination of his life's work: the seven principles that guide couples on the path toward a harmonious and long-lasting relationship. Straightforward in their approach, yet profound in their effect, these principles teach partners new and startling strategies for making their marriage work. Gottman helps couples focus on each other, on paying attention to the small day-to-day moments that, strung together, make up the heart and soul of any relationship. Being thoughtful about ordinary matters provides spouses with a solid foundation for resolving conflict when it does occur and finding strategies for living with those issues that cannot be resolved. Packed with questionnaires and exercises whose effectiveness has been proven in Dr. Gottman's workshops, The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work is the definitive guide for anyone who wants their relationship to attain its highest potential. The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work is the result of Dr. John Gottman's many years of closely observing thousands of marriages. This kind of longitudinal research has never been done before. Based on his findings, he has culled seven principles essential to the success of any marriage. Maintain a love map. Foster fondness and admiration. Turn toward instead of away. Accept influence. Solve solvable conflicts. Cope with conflicts you can't resolve. Create shared meaning. Dr. Gottman's unique questionnaires and exercises will guide couples on the road to revitalizing their marriage, or making a strong one even better.

**Taking It Big** - Stanley Aronowitz 2012-07-10 C. Wright Mills (1916–1962) was a pathbreaking intellectual who transformed the independent American Left in the 1940s and 1950s. Often challenging the established ideologies and approaches of fellow leftist thinkers, Mills was central to creating and developing the idea of the “public intellectual” in postwar America and laid the political foundations for the rise of the New Left in the 1960s. Written by Stanley Aronowitz, a leading sociologist and critic of American culture and politics, Taking It Big reconstructs this icon's formation and the new dimension of American political life that followed his work. Aronowitz revisits Mills's education and its role in shaping his outlook and intellectual restlessness. Mills defined himself as a maverick, and Aronowitz tests this claim (which has been challenged in recent years) against the work and thought of his contemporaries. Aronowitz describes Mills's growing circle of contacts among the New York Intellectuals and his efforts to reenergize the Left by encouraging a fundamentally new theoretical orientation centered on more ambitious critiques of U.S. society. Blurring the rigid boundaries among philosophy, history, and social theory and between traditional orthodoxies and the radical imagination, Mills became one of the most...
admired and controversial thinkers of his time and was instrumental in inspiring the student and antiwar movements of the 1960s. In this book, Aronowitz not only reclaims this critical thinker’s reputation but also emphasizes his ongoing significance to debates on power in American democracy.