Media are fundamental to our sense of living in a social world. Since the beginning of modernity, media have transformed the scale on which we act as social beings. And now in the era of digital media, media themselves are being transformed as platforms, content, and producers multiply.

Yet the implications of social theory for understanding media and of media for rethinking social theory have been neglected; never before has it been more important to understand those implications. This book takes on this challenge.

Drawing on Coul'dry's fifteen years of work on media and social theory, this book explores how questions of power and ritual, capital and social order, and the conduct of political struggle, professional competition, and everyday life, are all transformed by today's complex combinations of traditional and 'new' media. In the concluding chapters Coul'dry develops a framework for global comparative research into media and for thinking collectively about the ethics and justice of our lives with media. The result is a book that is both a major intervention in the field and required reading for all students of media and sociology.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nick Coul'dry is professor of media and communications at Goldsmiths, University of London.
FEATURES

• Major new contribution to media theory, considering the relationship between media and social theory.

• Written by an internationally respected scholar: this book is anticipated in the field.

• Pays particular attention to the need to understand digital media in relation to broader issues around society and power.

• Draws on a broad range of examples to keep the theory accessible, including reality TV, celebrity culture and the role of media in political uprisings such as the Arab Spring.

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