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## ABOUT THE SERIES EDITOR

### **Anthony Elliott**

Anthony Elliott is Chair of Sociology at Flinders University, Australia. He is also Visiting Research Professor at the Open University, UK, and Visiting Professor at University College Dublin, Ireland. His writings have been published in seventeen languages, and he has written widely on, amongst other topics, identity, globalization, society, celebrity and mobilities.



# FEELINGS

By **Stephen Frosh**

Everyone talks about their feelings, but what exactly are they? What are the distinguishing features of feelings, and how do they differ from emotions and affects? How do our feelings influence the kinds of people we are, and the sorts of communities and societies in which we live?

In this wonderful short book, acclaimed author Stephen Frosh interrogates the terrain of feelings and asks how this 'hidden' dimension of the self helps shape our worlds. The book provides an accessible and thought-provoking introduction to the major debates around feelings in the modern world.

*Feelings* is an accessible and engaging resource for students, academics, and indeed anyone with an interest in gaining a better understanding of this fundamental area of life.

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By **Constance Lever-Tracy**

What are the manifest and likely future consequences of climate change? How will the world respond to the challenges of climate change in the twenty-first century? How should people think about confronting the politics of climate change?

In this highly accessible introduction to the predicted global impacts of climate change, Constance Lever-Tracy provides an authoritative guide to one of the most controversial issues facing the future of our planet. Discussing how the social and natural sciences must work together more effectively in confronting climate change, Lever-Tracy provides a sober, critical assessment of the politics of global warming and climate change.

By combining sociology, environmental studies and politics, *Confronting Climate Change* will serve as an introduction that will appeal to students and general readers alike.

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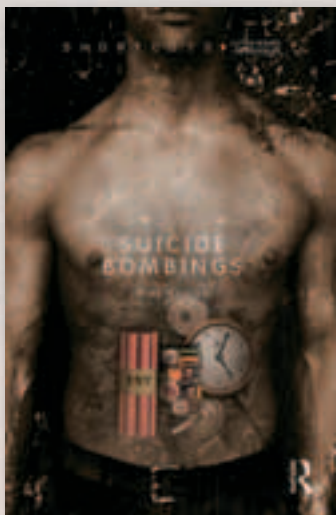
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# SUICIDE BOMBINGS

By **Riaz Hassan**



In an age when the Western world is preoccupied with worries about weapons of mass destruction in terrorist hands, terrorists across many parts of the globe are using a more basic device as a weapon – life itself.

Suicide bombing has become a weapon of choice among terrorist groups because of its lethality and unrivalled ability to cause mayhem and fear, but what is the real driving force behind these attacks? For the first time, *Suicide Bombings* analyses concrete data from The Suicide Terrorism Database at Flinders University, Australia, to explain what motivates the perpetrators. The results serve to largely discredit common wisdom that religion and an impressionable personality are the principal causes, and show rather that a cocktail of motivations fuel these attacks which include politics, humiliation, revenge, retaliation, and altruism.

*Suicide Bombings* provides a short but incisive insight into this much publicized form of terrorism, and as such is an informative and engaging resource for students, academics, and indeed anyone with an interest in this topic.

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## WEB 2.0

By **Sam Han**

Web 2.0 is a highly accessible introductory text examining all the crucial discussions and issues which surround the changing nature of the World Wide Web. It not only contextualises the Web 2.0 within the history of the Web, but also goes on to explore its position within the broader dispositif of emerging media technologies.

The book uncovers the connections between diverse media technologies including mobile smart phones, hand-held multimedia players, “netbooks” and electronic book readers such as the Amazon Kindle, all of which are made possible only by the Web 2.0. In addition, Web 2.0 makes a valuable contribution towards understanding the new developments in mobile computing as it integrates various aspects of social networking, whilst also tackling head-on the recent controversial debates that have arisen in a backlash to the Web 2.0.

Providing valuable insight into this emerging area of the World Wide Web, Web 2.0 is a key supplementary text for undergraduate students of media studies, sociology, philosophy and other related disciplines, as well as being an informative read for anyone with an interest in this key contemporary issue.

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# FREEDOM

By **Nick Stevenson**



The idea of freedom is central to western ideas of modernity, but this engaging, accessible book argues that if we look back at the history of the idea of freedom, then what we mean by it is far more contested than we might think. To what extent does freedom have a 'social' component, and how is it being reshaped by our dominant consumer society? This book represents a wake-up call to all those who thought our basic ideas of freedom were settled.

Today, the West sees itself as having a crucial role to play in exporting freedom into the far regions of the world – but our own freedom seems more under threat than ever. Linking ideas of public and personal freedom, Stevenson explores complaints about 'big brother', the arrival of the business society and the erosion of democracy to show how our freedoms are far from secure.

Seeking to affirm the importance of freedom, this book provides a compelling argument for linking it to other values such as equality and responsibility. Drawing upon a range of critical thinkers and perspectives, Stevenson asks what freedom will come to mean in the future, in a world that seems increasingly fragile, uncertain and insecure.

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# PLANET SPORT

By **Kath Woodward**

Sport generates some of the most intense feelings and levels of commitment. It is big business globally, but also the source of the most powerful personal identifications and individual and collective pleasures. Sporting events are routine, whether in the gym, on the field or at the training ground but they are also spectacular, for example in mega events at the stadium or, for followers at a distance, through the media of television, radio or the Internet. Why does sport matter so much?

In this book, Woodward demonstrates why sport matters and how, arguing that we should take sport seriously, and explore what is social about it. Sport is not just another domain to which social theories can be applied; it is also distinctive and generates new ways of thinking about social issues and debates. Sport is affected by the global economy and social, political and cultural processes – but it also has effects on the wider social terrain of which it is part. Sport is more than play.

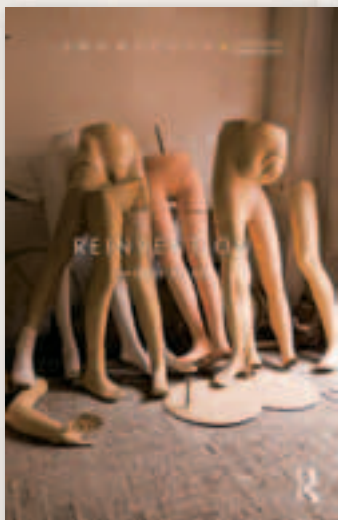
*Planet Sport* is an engaging and concise introduction to some of the big issues in contemporary debates about sport in globalised societies, and will appeal to students, academics and general readers alike.

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# REINVENTION

By **Anthony Elliott**

Ours is the era of 'reinvention'. From psychotherapy to life coaching, from reality television to cosmetic surgery: the art of reinvention is inextricably interwoven with the lure of the next frontier. For others, however, the twenty-first century craze for reinvention represents the degradation of culture and the narcissistic illusions of a me-generation.

In a brief, wide-ranging and ambitious overview of the rise and rise of reinvention, Anthony Elliott reviews everything from reinvention gurus to business reinvention, from personal makeovers to corporate rebrandings. He considers contemporary reinvention practices including super fast weight loss diets, celebrity makeovers, speed dating, online relationship therapies, organizational restructurings, business downsizings, and many more.

This absorbing book is an ideal introduction to the topic of reinvention for students of social science and general readers alike. *Reinvention* offers a radical reflection on an issue (sometimes treated as trivial in the public sphere) that is increasingly politically urgent in terms of its personal, social and environmental consequences.

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# GLOBAL FINANCE

By **Robert J. Holton**

Written under the shadow of the global financial crisis, this book charts the current shape of global finance and tries to explain why the crisis arose – and what can be done about it. Economics alone cannot fully explain how global finance operates, and why it is so crisis prone. *Global Finance* offers a wider approach in three key ways, by:

- setting markets and financial market failure in a historical context
- bringing politics and culture back into the analysis of global finance
- drawing on the latest thinking by sociologists of economic life.

With a convincing argument for better regulation of markets, Robert Holton provides a fascinating insight into the volatile and often misunderstood world of global finance. This is a key text for undergraduate students of sociology, economics, business, and politics, as well as being an incisive, informative read for anyone with an interest in this topical issue.

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