

Conversations With Bourdieu: The Johannesburg Moment

In October 1998, Pierre Bourdieu, one of the most important sociologists of the 20th century, visited the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg to give a series of lectures. These lectures were later published as *Conversations with Bourdieu: The Johannesburg Moment*.

The book is a fascinating account of Bourdieu's thoughts on a wide range of topics, including:

- The social structure of South Africa
- The role of education in social reproduction
- The relationship between culture and power
- The future of sociology

Bourdieu's insights on these topics are both insightful and challenging. He argues, for example, that South Africa's social structure is characterized by a "double apartheid": a racial apartheid that separates blacks from whites, and a class apartheid that separates the wealthy from the poor. He also argues that education is a key mechanism for social reproduction, and that the relationship between culture and power is complex and multifaceted.

Conversations with Bourdieu: The Johannesburg

Moment by Michael Burawoy

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 695 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 250 pages



Bourdieu's work has had a profound impact on sociology, and *Conversations with Bourdieu: The Johannesburg Moment* is an essential text for anyone interested in his thought. The book is also a valuable resource for students of South African society and culture.

Key Concepts in Bourdieu's Work

- **Field:** A social space in which individuals and groups compete for power and resources.
- **Habitus:** A set of dispositions that are acquired through socialization and that shape the way individuals perceive and interact with the world.
- **Cultural capital:** A form of capital that is based on the possession of knowledge and cultural goods.
- **Social capital:** A form of capital that is based on social relationships.
- **Symbolic violence:** A form of violence that is based on the manipulation of symbols and meanings.

The Johannesburg Moment

Bourdieu's visit to Johannesburg in 1998 was a significant moment in his career. It was the first time that he had visited South Africa, and he was deeply affected by what he saw.

In his lectures, Bourdieu argued that South Africa was a "microcosm of the world." He saw in South Africa the same social problems that he had observed in other parts of the world, including poverty, inequality, and racism. However, he also saw in South Africa a spirit of hope and resistance.

Bourdieu's visit to Johannesburg was a turning point in his thinking. He began to see more clearly the global dimensions of social inequality, and he became more committed to working for social justice.

The Legacy of Bourdieu's Work

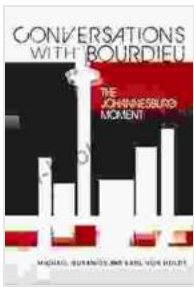
Bourdieu's work has had a profound impact on sociology, and it continues to be influential today. His insights into the social structure of society, the role of education, the relationship between culture and power, and the future of sociology have helped us to understand the world around us better.

Bourdieu's work is also a source of inspiration for activists and social movements. His emphasis on the importance of social change and his belief in the power of collective action have inspired people around the world to fight for a more just and equitable world.

Further Reading

- Bourdieu, P. (1998). *Conversations with Bourdieu: The Johannesburg Moment*. Polity Press.

- Bourdieu, P. (1984). Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste. Routledge.
- Bourdieu, P. (1990). The Logic of Practice. Stanford University Press.
- Bourdieu, P. (2000). Pascalian Meditations. Stanford University Press.



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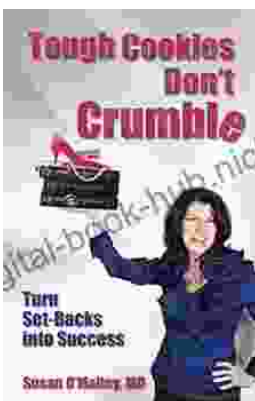
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