

System and Structure: Essays in Communication and Exchange (Social Science Paperbacks)

Anthony Wilden

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*

 Download

 Read Online

#2371691 in Books 1980-05Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 #File
Name: 0422767107656 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Anthony Wilden : System and Structure: Essays in Communication and Exchange (Social Science Paperbacks)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised System and Structure: Essays in Communication and Exchange (Social Science Paperbacks):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Untimely MasterpieceBy StreetlightReaderIts entirely possible that Anthony Wilden's System and Structure is the most important philosophical work of the twentieth century that no one has ever read. Indeed, it's tempting, while reading the tome, to give up entirely on the very enterprise of philosophy altogether. If Wilden, whose writing could traverse the plains of psychoanalysis and science, ecology and literature, politics and mathematics - all in magnificent, imaginative and original form - if this luminous, radiating intelligence could and does remain in the shadows of contemporary thought, what hope do the rest of us have?That all said, it's perhaps not entirely surprising in retrospect. At home neither in the worlds of structuralism, systems science, psychoanalysis or Marxism - the four theoretical pillars upon which System and Structure rests - Wilden's book carves out for itself a singular position in the landscape of thought, one as dependent on its idiosyncratic milieu as it is critically distant from it. Written for those prepared to follow, say, detailed chemical descriptions of axon function in nerve cells, discussions of the role of negation in Hegelian idealism and Freudian metapsychology, as well as investigations into structure of repetition in the literature of Italo Svevo and Michel de Montaigne, there's an ambition and an intensity to System and Structure that isn't at all for the philosophically light-hearted.As for what it's all really

about, one could perhaps call this a book of epistemology, or better yet, a book about the use and abuse of epistemology. Leveraging Gregory Bateson's notion of 'logical typing' (itself derived from Russell and Whitehead, but here applied to epistemology in general rather than to mathematical formalisms), Wilden's book takes to task the many 'reductionist' epistemologies that, instead of paying attention to the various (levels of) contexts which condition any scientific or philosophical investigation, insist instead upon the context-free nature of analysis. Thus from ecology to evolution, anthropology to political economy, Wilden relentlessly exposes the intellectual and ethical abysses into which we fall when we ignore the complex play of contexts and relations which define our worlds. Now, while it's true that 'pay attention to context!' doesn't strike the most radical bell on first ring, the fierceness and firmness by which Wilden holds to his principles makes all the more obvious just how little adhered to such notions are - both consciously and otherwise. Information and communication theory, cybernetics, Levi-Straussian anthropology, Piagetian structuralism, Lacanian semiosis - all are held to the fire here and found wanting. Reading through that list, there's a case to be made for the somewhat dated character of the references here, but in truth, the untimeliness of Wilden's work simply reflects all the better the lengths we have yet to go to make ourselves equal to this masterwork of philosophical reflection.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

context of contexts
By Andres Kurismaa
You should find two chapters of this book on the web if you search by the author's name.

The editorial: "By its transdisciplinary perspective on the humanities and the social sciences and its unconventional approach to controversial issues, *System and Structure* has long established its position as a leading text in the studies of social, psychological, and economic relations from a systemic and communicational point of view. For this second edition, Anthony Wilden has supplemented the text with further definitions of the original material. The student is thus provided with additional aid in grasping the complexities of current theory and practice - communicational, systemic, semiotic, structuralist - in the human sciences, not simply with reference to themselves, but also with reference to the actual environments in which they are produced and reproduced. As in the first edition, the author utilizes - and criticizes - concepts drawn from psychoanalysis (Freud, Lacan), psychology (Piaget, Laing), anthropology (Levi-Strauss, Rappaport), philosophy (Hegel, Marcuse), linguistics (Saussure, Jakobson), the double-bind theory of schizophrenia (Bateson), as well as associated work in biology, cybernetics, systems ecology, and Marxian studies. In this way he brings together in a critical synthesis a series of apparently disparate sets of relations: primary and secondary process, superstructure and base, system and ideology, play and phantasy, power and paradox, mathematics and "schizophrenia". In providing new applications of the critical and ecosystemic perspective in this new edition, the author further illustrates the distinctions between analog and digital communication, "system" and "environment", meaning and signification, and Symbolic and Imaginary exchange, all of which are fundamental to his contextual critique of the scientific discourse and its current state of crisis."

Tavistock Press was established as a co-operative venture between the Tavistock Institute and Routledge Kegan Paul (RKP) in the 1950s to produce a series of major contributions across the social sciences. This volume is part of a 2001 reissue of a selection of those important works which have since gone out of print, or are difficult to locate. Published by Routledge, 112 volumes in total are being brought together under the name *The International Behavioural and Social Sciences Library: Classics from the Tavistock Press*. Reproduced here in facsimile, this volume was originally published in 1980 and is available individually. The collection is also available in a number of themed mini-sets of between 5 and 13 volumes, or as a complete collection.