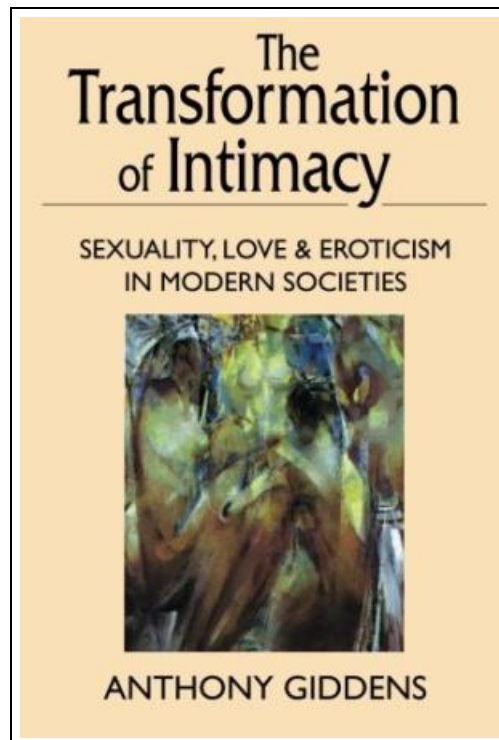


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TRANSFORMATION OF INTIMACY: SEXUALITY, LOVE, AND EROTICISM IN MODERN SOCIETIES

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Stanford University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 216 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.2in. x 0.6in. The sexual revolution: an evocative term, but what meaning can be given to it today? How does sexuality come into being, and what connections does it have with the changes that have affected personal life more generally? In answering these questions, the author disputes many of the dominant interpretations of the role of sexuality in modern culture. The author suggests that the revolutionary changes in which sexuality has become caught up are more long-term than generally conceded. He sees them as intrinsic to the development of modern societies as a whole and to the broad characteristics of that development. Sexuality as we know it today is a creation of modernity, a terrain upon which the contradictory tendencies of modern social life play themselves out in full. Emancipation and oppression, opportunity and risk—these have become a part of a heady mix that irresistably ties our individual lives to global outcomes and the transformation of intimacy. We live today in a social order in which, for the first time in history, women are becoming equal to men—at least have lodged a claim to such equality as their right. The author does not attempt to analyze the gender inequalities that persist in the economic or political domains, but instead concentrates on a more hidden personal area in which women—ordinary women, in the course of their day-to-day lives, quite apart from any political agenda—have pioneered changes of great, and generalizable, importance. These changes essentially concern an exploration of the potentialities of the pure relationship, a relationship that presumes sexual and emotional equality, and is explosive in its connotations for pre-existing relations of power. The author analyzes the emergence of what he calls plastic sexuality—sexuality freed from its intrinsic relation to...

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