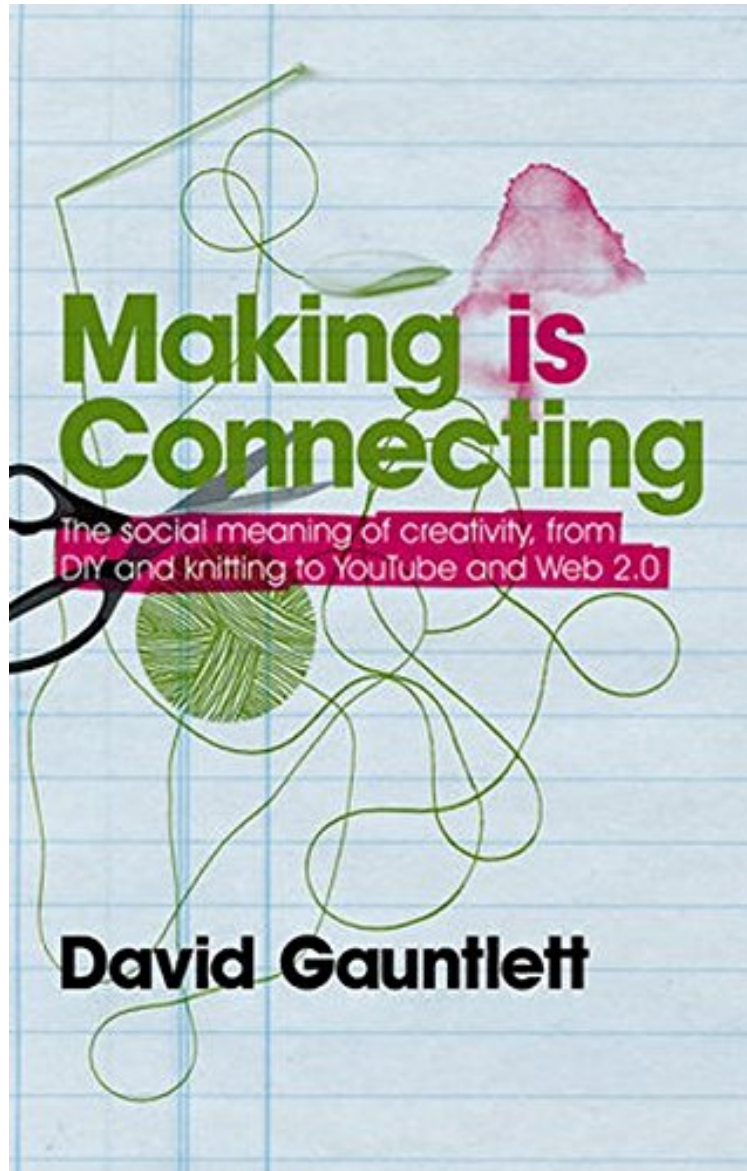


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Making is Connecting

David Gauntlett

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David Gauntlett : Making is Connecting before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making is Connecting:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Optimistic though balancedBy KimncrisGauntlett's book shares a lot of the enthusiastic viewpoint of other books on Making but he does seem more willing to acknowledge drawbacks and challenges (such as the need to build a literacy of making). He also treats the relationship to craft more substantively,

rather than erasing that history in the celebration of something new. Overall Making is Connecting is an inspiring read that does not leave one feeling that the author is out of touch with the material realities of the social and cultural contexts in which he would see making flourish. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful and compelling

By Michael Thayer I found this book to be an excellent introduction to the history of "making" and the social contexts in which that idea has existed over the last 150 years or so. The author has a wonderful, very readable style, and I learned a lot from it. I just got done reading "Invent To Learn" by Sylvia Martinez and Gary Stager, and Gauntlett's book is a great complement. Highly recommended!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wish I'd written this book

By Sorcha CBI am a phd student looking at many of the social interactions that Gauntlett describes, and I am envious that he wrote it first! The book is engaging and full of fascinating anecdotes. Every time I would think, "I wish this idea/theory had some scholarly citations" Gauntlett would add some within the next couple of pages.

In Making is Connecting, David Gauntlett argues that through making things, people engage with the world and create connections with each other. Both online and offline, we see that people want to make their mark on the world, and to make connections. During the previous century, the production of culture became dominated by professional elite producers. But today, a vast array of people are making and sharing their own ideas, videos, and other creative material online, as well as engaging in real-world crafts, art projects, and hands-on experiences. Gauntlett argues that we are seeing a shift from a sit-back-and-be-told culture to a making-and-doing culture. People are rejecting traditional teaching and television, and making their own learning and entertainment instead. Drawing on evidence from psychology, politics, philosophy, and economics, he shows how this shift is necessary and essential for the happiness and survival of modern societies.

"Gauntlett offers a terrific account of how creativity, craft, and community intersect in the 21st century." Clay Shirky, author of Here Comes Everybody

Essential reading for media educators. Gauntlett takes us beyond instrumental notions of assessing creative practice or teaching with new media into a more far-reaching and political view of how human beings are finding new ways of making their mark on the world, contributing to culture and 'doing it for ourselves'. In a period where 'experts' are bombarding us with moral panics about 'screen addiction' and 'toxic childhood', usually without any research evidence or attention to the fields of existing literature, Making is Connecting redresses the balance and gives voice to the creative communities, on and offline, too often spoken about from positions of ignorance and suspicion.

Media Education Research Journal

Gauntlett, who is an engaging man, is to be congratulated on this book which has taken on an enormous field and made a valuable step towards addressing some of the problems presented and the discussions around them.

Communication Research Trends

A very accessible and sound argument centered on creating and sharing as the cornerstones to individual happiness and healthy community in a society saturated with messages imploring and coercing us to do the exact opposite. Academic but accessible, fun with serious supportive argumentation, full of life and exploding with optimism, I'm certain David Gauntlett's Making is Connecting will inspire in you the fire to make, connect, and do!

Art Threat

In a beautifully crafted book, [Gauntlett] explains how making things connects us to our world and to each other...Perhaps more academics should be 'craftivists'.

Alison Adam, Salford University

Accessible, well constructed, bold and controversial.

Julian McDougall, Newman University College

Making is Connecting is an inspired call to recognize the relationship between encouraging creativity and fostering an engaged citizenry. If you want to understand how emerging practices in digital participatory cultures can lead to positive transformations in our individual lives and in our societies, you need to read this book.

Lynn Schofield Clark, University of Denver

Making is Connecting is a remarkably clear, convincing and engaging work. Perhaps the best thing about this book is the way in which Gauntlett draws together the existing literature in this field of creativity and community (particularly online). The book makes sense of Leadbeater, Anderson, Lanier, Shirky and others and shines a light on their strengths and weaknesses in a lucid and convincing fashion.

Andrew Dubber, Birmingham City University

From the Back Cover

In Making is Connecting, David Gauntlett argues that, through making things, people engage with the world and create connections with each other. Both online and offline, we see that people want to make their mark on the world, and to make connections. During the previous century, the production of culture became dominated by professional elite producers. But today, a vast array of people are making and sharing their own ideas, videos and other creative material online, as well as engaging in real-world crafts, art projects and hands-on experiences. Gauntlett argues that we are seeing a shift from a sit-back-and-be-told culture' to a making-and-doing culture'. People are rejecting traditional teaching and television, and making their own learning and entertainment instead. Drawing on evidence from psychology, politics, philosophy and economics, he shows how this shift is necessary and essential for the happiness and survival of modern societies.

About the Author

David Gauntlett is Professor of Media and Communications at University of Westminster, UK, and author of several books including Creative Explorations.