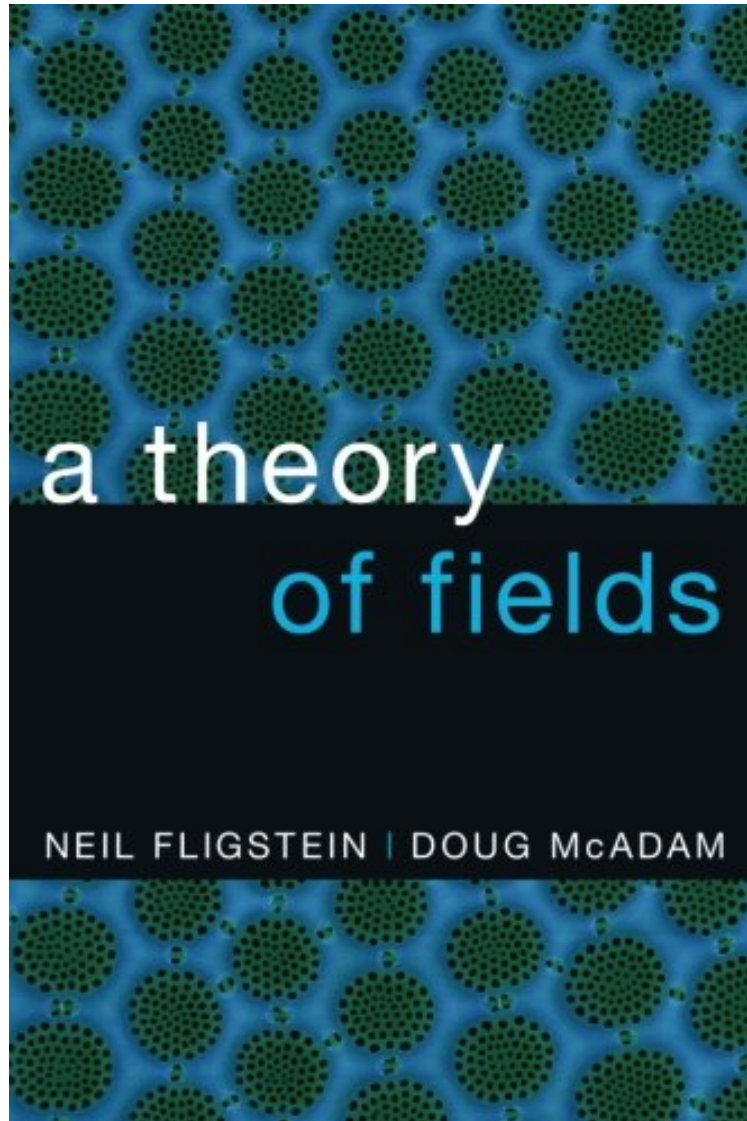


[Read download] A Theory of Fields

## A Theory of Fields

*Neil Fligstein, Doug McAdam*  
*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



#329811 in Books Doug McAdam Neil Fligstein 2015-04-01 2015-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1  
6.10 x .90 x 9.201, .0 #File Name: 0190241454256 pages A Theory of Fields | File size: 66.Mb

**Neil Fligstein, Doug McAdam : A Theory of Fields** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Theory of Fields:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Field formation and collective action AnalysisBy Otavio RezendeA proposition of field formation and collective action analysis that considers a view less rigid than Bourdieu's perspective. Ideal for anyone working with ARS (analysis of social networks) or institutional theory. Two different contributions seems to be deserving to be highlighted: the combination of different fields having an impact on the field formation and the way the author proposes understanding the boundaries of the field under research. I strongly

recommend the book for researches of applied social sciences. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ver  
accessible extension of current theoryBy Deborah HartmanThis book provides a very practical and readable guide to  
field theory that fills some of the gaps and silences and extends some of the great thinking of giants like Bourdieu. 1 of  
1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DomenicoLovely for study Organizational fields

Finding ways to understand the nature of social change and social order—from political movements to market  
meltdowns—is one of the enduring problems of social science. A Theory of Fields draws together far-ranging insights  
from social movement theory, organizational theory, and economic and political sociology to construct a general  
theory of social organization and strategic action. In a work of remarkable synthesis, imagination, and analysis, Neil  
Fligstein and Doug McAdam propose that social change and social order can be understood through what they call  
strategic action fields. They posit that these fields are the general building blocks of political and economic life, civil  
society, and the state, and the fundamental form of order in our world today. Similar to Russian dolls, they are nested  
and connected in a broader environment of almost countless proximate and overlapping fields. Fields are mutually  
dependent; change in one often triggers change in another. At the core of the theory is an account of how social actors  
fashion and maintain order in a given field. This sociological theory of action, what they call "social skill," helps  
explain what individuals do in strategic action fields to gain cooperation or engage in competition. To demonstrate the  
breadth of the theory, Fligstein and McAdam make its abstract principles concrete through extended case studies of the  
Civil Rights Movement and the rise and fall of the market for mortgages in the U.S. since the 1960s. The book also  
provides a "how-to" guide to help others implement the approach and discusses methodological issues. With a bold  
new approach, A Theory of Fields offers both a rigorous and practically applicable way of thinking through and  
making sense of social order and change—and how one emerges from the other—in modern, complex societies.

"In this bold and sweeping new work, Fligstein and McAdam make the first global contribution to sociological field  
theory since Bourdieu's Distinction. Finding order and turbulence not only in the semi-autonomous fields that others  
have investigated, but also in the complex interplay of social movements and the state, Fligstein and McAdam produce  
a vision that is theoretically insightful, empirically generative and will re-energize the quest for a fundamental grasp of  
the dynamics of large-scale social interaction." --John Levi Martin, University of Chicago  
"In this much-anticipated  
book, Neil Fligstein and Doug McAdam bring their rich and influential strands of scholarly work together to develop a  
provocative account of how skilled individuals upset established routines and build new political and organizational  
fields. The core of their argument emphasizes on how people deploy resources, build connections, and forge new  
practices. In so doing, they place agency in a new and analytically tractable light. This signal accomplishment will be  
essential reading to all political and organizational scholars." --Walter W. Powell, Stanford University  
"In A Theory of  
Fields, Neil Fligstein and Doug McAdam provide a powerful synthetic approach to the analysis of interconnected  
"strategic action fields" that anchor interaction and meaningful membership. This conceptual language breaches  
distinctions among political, economic, and other sociologies to advance a compelling general approach to the most  
basic sociological questions of order and change. Fligstein and McAdam have accomplished the difficult task of  
grappling with fundamental issues of social theory while advancing a program of social research that should both  
engage advanced scholars and inspire those earlier in their careers." --Elisabeth S. Clemens, University of  
Chicago  
"...an important work that has been at least two decades in the making. Fligstein and McAdam began forming  
the key insights of the book during their time at the University of Arizona in the 1980s and 1990s, mingling ideas from  
McAdam's work in social movement theory with Fligstein's political theory of markets. I hope that field theory will  
continue to evolve as a deductive theory for explaining how actors' relative positions shape their actions, how positions  
evolve over time, and how changes in position create instability in fields. This book serves as a useful launch point for  
this type of analysis." --Administrative Science Quarterly  
About the Author  
Neil Fligstein is the Class of 1939  
Chancellor's Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. A renowned scholar  
of economic sociology, organizations, and political sociology, he is the author or coauthor of six books, including The  
Architecture of Markets and Euroclash: The EU, European Identity, and the Future of Europe. Doug McAdam is the  
Ray Lyman Wilbur Professor of Sociology at Stanford University. He is the author or co-author of thirteen books in  
the area of political sociology, with an emphasis on social movements and revolutions. Among his best known works  
are Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970, Freedom Summer, and (with Sid Tarrow  
and Charles Tilly) Dynamics of Contention.