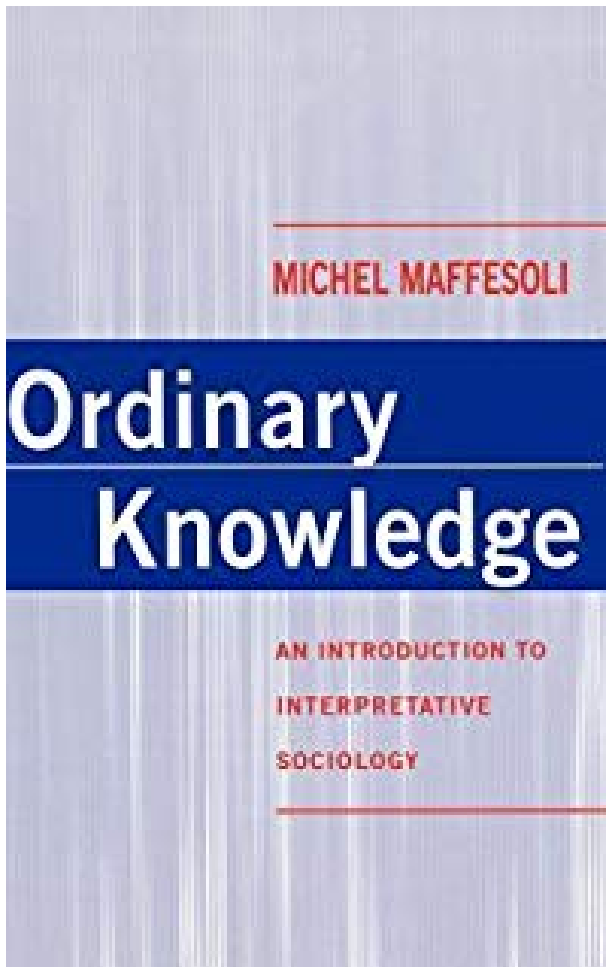


Ordinary Knowledge: an introduction to interpretative sociology



Pages:	208
Genre:	Uncategorized
Language	English
Author:	Michel Maffesoli
ISBN10:	0745611184
Goodreads Rating:	2.25
Published:	June 3rd 1996 by Polity Press
ISBN13:	9780745611181

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In this important and stylish book, Michel Maffesoli argues that it is impossible to reduce knowledge to a conception of science inherited from the nineteenth century. Instead, he argues, we must go beyond intellectual conformities based on limited and archaic moral or political foundations. This approach emphasizes the growing importance of information and communication in modern societies. Maffesoli suggests that sociologists have too often succumbed to the "positivist fascination" of analytical formalism and dualistic thinking. Rather than viewing society as a finished product, he develops an approach which seeks to analyse, in all their nuances and contradictions, the new forms of social life - particularly everyday life - which are beginning to emerge in the late twentieth century. A timely contribution to current debates, Ordinary Knowledge will be welcomed by students and researchers in sociology and social theory.