

Cambridge University Press

0521645549 - Risk and Sociocultural Theory: New Directions and Perspectives

Edited by Deborah Lupton

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

This book presents a variety of exciting new perspectives on the perception of risk and the strategies that people adopt to cope with it. Using the framework of recent social and cultural theory, it reflects the fact that risk has become integral to contemporary understandings of selfhood, the body and social relations and is central to the work of writers such as Douglas, Beck, Giddens and the Foucauldian theorists. The contributors are all leading scholars in the fields of sociology, cultural and media studies and cultural anthropology. Combining empirical analyses with metatheoretical critiques, they tackle an unusually diverse range of topics including drug use, risk in the workplace, fear of crime and the media, risk and pregnant embodiment, the social construction of danger in childhood, anxieties about national identity, the governmental uses of risk and the relationship between risk phenomena and social order.

Deborah Lupton is Associate Professor in Cultural Studies and Cultural Policy and Director of the Centre for Cultural Risk Research at Charles Sturt University, Australia. She has published numerous books and journal articles in areas such as the sociocultural aspects of health, sexuality, food, the emotions, HIV and the media.

Cambridge University Press

0521645549 - Risk and Sociocultural Theory: New Directions and Perspectives

Edited by Deborah Lupton

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Risk and sociocultural theory:

new directions and perspectives

Edited by

Deborah Lupton



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
0521645549 - Risk and Sociocultural Theory: New Directions and Perspectives
Edited by Deborah Lupton
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521642071

© Deborah Lupton 1999

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1999

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Risk and sociocultural theory: new directions and perspectives / edited by Deborah Lupton.

p. cm.

ISBN 0 521 64207 8 (hardback). – ISBN 0 521 64554 9 (paperback)

1. Risk – Sociological aspects.
2. Risk perception – Social aspects.

I. Lupton, Deborah.

HM1101.R57 1999

302'.12 – dc21 99–24201 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-64207-1 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-64207-8 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-64554-6 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-64554-9 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2006

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i>	vii
Introduction: risk and sociocultural theory DEBORAH LUPTON		I
1 Postmodern reflections on ‘risk’, ‘hazards’ and life choices NICK FOX		12
2 Fear of crime and the media: sociocultural theories of risk JOHN TULLOCH		34
3 Risk and the ontology of pregnant embodiment DEBORAH LUPTON		59
4 Risk anxiety and the social construction of childhood STEVI JACKSON and SUE SCOTT		86
5 Constructing an endangered nation: risk, race and rationality in Australia’s native title debate EVA MACKAY		108
6 Risk, calculable and incalculable MITCHELL DEAN		131
7 Ordering risks STEPHEN CROOK		160
<i>Index</i>		186

Cambridge University Press

0521645549 - Risk and Sociocultural Theory: New Directions and Perspectives

Edited by Deborah Lupton

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

STEPHEN CROOK is Professor of Sociology and Head of the Department of Psychology and Sociology at James Cook University, Townsville, Australia. His general interests are in the sociology of culture, social theory and the sociology of change. He is the author of *Modernist Radicalism and its Aftermath*, co-author of *Postmodernization: Change in Advanced Society* and editor of *Adorno: the Stars Down to Earth*. His recent research has centred on his role as co-chief investigator in a major research project on 'Environmentalism, Public Opinion and the Media'. In this capacity he is a contributor to, and co-editor of *Ebbing of the Green Tide? Environmentalism, Public Opinion and the Media in Australia*. His current work is focused on the sociocultural regimes through which technological and other risks are managed, and the relation of those regimes to more general patterns of order and change.

MITCHELL DEAN is Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. He is the author of one of the first full-length studies of governmentality, *The Constitution of Poverty: Toward a Genealogy of Liberal Governance* (1991), as well as *Critical and Effective Histories: Foucault's Methods and Historical Sociology* (1994). He has written numerous articles on applied and theoretical aspects of governmental and ethical practices and published in European, North American and Australian social science and theory journals. He is the co-editor (with Barry Hindess) of *Governing Australia* (1998) and author of *Governmentality* (1999).

NICK FOX is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Sheffield, UK. He is the author of *The Social Meaning of Surgery* (1992) and *Postmodernism, Sociology and Health* (1993). He has written extensively on postmodernism and is currently working on a new book on post-modern social theory and research.

STEVI JACKSON is Professor of Women's Studies and Director of the Centre for Women's Studies, University of York, UK. She is the author

Cambridge University Press

0521645549 - Risk and Sociocultural Theory: New Directions and Perspectives

Edited by Deborah Lupton

Frontmatter

[More information](#)viii *List of contributors*

of *Childhood and Sexuality* (1982) and *Christine Delphy* ('Women of Ideas' Series, 1996). She has co-edited *Women's Studies: A Reader* (1993), *The Politics of Domestic Consumption: Critical Readings* (1995), *Feminism and Sexuality* (1996) and *Contemporary Feminist Theories* (1998). She has also published a number of articles on romance, sexuality and family relationships and is currently working with Sue Scott, Kathryn Milburn and Jennifer Harden researching the impact of risk and adult risk anxiety on the everyday world of children. Forthcoming books include *Concerning Heterosexuality*, and *Childhood and Sexuality Revisited*.

DEBORAH LUPTON is Associate Professor in Cultural Studies and Cultural Policy and Director of the Centre for Cultural Risk Research, Charles Sturt University, Australia. Her research interests are in the sociocultural dimensions of: the body; medicine and public health; risk; sexuality and HIV/AIDS; parenthood; food and eating; the emotions; techno-culture; and the mass media and commodity culture. Her most recent books are *Television, AIDS and Risk* (1997, with John Tulloch), *Constructing Fatherhood* (1997, with Lesley Barclay), *The Emotional Self* (1998) and *Risk* (1999).

EVA MACKEY is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Centre for Cultural Risk Research at Charles Sturt University, Australia. A social anthropologist (PhD, University of Sussex, 1996), her publications include *The House of Difference: Cultural Politics and National Identity in Canada* (1999), and numerous journal articles and book chapters on race, representation, identity and nationalism. Her current research interests include concepts of culture and danger in 'postcolonial' settler nations, and the construction of 'dangerous' populations in colonial societies.

SUE SCOTT is Professor of Sociology at the University of Durham, UK. She was previously at the University of Stirling and the University of Manchester. Her previous research includes the Women, Risk and AIDS Project (WRAP) and she is currently involved in a large study of sex education in Scotland and a qualitative project exploring risk and risk anxiety in the lives of parents and children. Her publications include *Private Risks and Public Dangers* (edited with Gareth Williams); *Body Matters* (edited with David Morgan) and *Feminism and Sexuality* (forthcoming, with Stevi Jackson). She is currently working, with Stevi Jackson, on the importance of gender in feminism and sociology.

JOHN TULLOCH is Professor of Media Communication at Cardiff University, Wales. Previously he was Professor of Cultural Studies,

Cambridge University Press

0521645549 - Risk and Sociocultural Theory: New Directions and Perspectives

Edited by Deborah Lupton

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of contributors

ix

Director of Research at the Arts Faculty, and Director of the Centre for Cultural Risk Research, Charles Sturt University, Australia. His recent and forthcoming books are: *Science Fiction Audiences* (1995 with Henry Jenkins), *Television, AIDS and Risk* (1997, with Deborah Lupton), *Performing Culture* (forthcoming), and *Watching Television Audiences* (forthcoming).