



Otherness: An invisible network of dispositifs

AM Amir A Mokhtarzadeh

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This book is an adapted chapter of author's PhD thesis entitled to 'Knowing Otherness: The experience of doing educational ethnography in a Chinese community.' Knowing otherness, in that sense, is to see the invisible which is already known by others, but not us. The elements that are drawn upon to address a given problem, and influence interpretations, differ from culture to culture. Drawing in Foucault and Agamben, the author explores such elements in terms of what is called a 'dispositif' (or its English translation, 'device' or 'apparatus') as a methodology and resource to see the invisibles. By developing an object model of dispositif, he argues the ways that these dispositifs have potential to be hijacked by power, to shape behaviours, create obedience, and manage consents. Despite the academic originality of this book, it is based on reflexive ethnography, and is presented with many field stories. It is a discussion of dispositifs, followed by the exploration of common and ordinary dispositifs to all humans, such as, 'food habits' and 'gift,' drawn from the author's actual field experiences in China, therefore, it can be useful for anyone interested in entering into another community, to understand their lives, and be seen as an insider. Although the author has a strong background in technology as a lecturer for many years, his in-between spaces identity and living in different cultures has attracted his interest in knowing and understanding others. By commencing his Ph.D. at Manchester Metropolitan University, institute of education, he had opportunity to live and work in China and expand his understanding and knowledge about Chinese culture.



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