



## Curated Stories: The Political Uses and Misuses of Storytelling (Oxford Studies in Culture and Politics)

By Sujatha Fernandes

Oxford University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 232 pages. Storytelling has proliferated today, from TED Talks and Humans of New York to a plethora of story-coaching agencies and consultants. These narratives are typically heartbreaking accounts of poverty, mistreatment, and struggle that often move us deeply. But what do they move us to And what are the stakes in the crafting and use of storytelling In Curated Stories, Sujatha Fernandes considers the rise of storytelling alongside the broader shift to neoliberal, free-market economies to argue that stories have been reconfigured to promote entrepreneurial self-making and restructured as easily digestible soundbites mobilized toward utilitarian ends. Fernandes roams the globe and returns with stories from the Afghan Womens Writing Project, the domestic workers movement and the undocumented student Dreamer movement in the United States, and the Misin Cultura project in Venezuela to show how the conditions under which the stories are told, the tropes through which they are narrated, and the ways in which they are responded to may actually disguise the deeper contexts of global inequality. Curated stories shift the focus away from structural problems and defuse the confrontational politics of social movements. Not just a critical examination of contemporary use of narrative and...



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