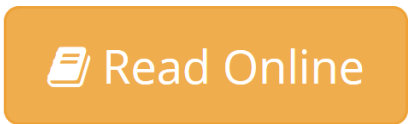


Good to Talk?: Living and Working in a Communication Culture

By Deborah Cameron



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It's good to talk is one of the great clich[ac]es of our time. The benefits of talk to individuals, families and organizations are proclaimed by pop psychologists, television talk show hosts, and management gurus. The importance of talk is talked about endlessly.

Good to Talk? is an attempt to look critically at what lies behind this upsurge of concern about talk in our workplaces, classrooms and private lives, and it places these developments in historical context and relates their forms to the broader economic and social changes associated with globalization.

The book also poses questions about the social and political implications of talking about talking. Is `communication' the key to solving the

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Editorial Review

Review

'This is one of those books - in my view the best kind of academic work - which takes a very specific phenomenon, and shows it to be the key issues of much larger significance.... I found this book entertaining, moving, inspiring, informative, and intellectually stimulating. It has altered my ideas about applied linguistics, and about what happens in my daily life' - *Applied Linguistics*

'**Good to Talk** demonstrates powerfully why it is increasingly not so good to talk. Deborah Cameron details how talk is increasingly "stylized", codified, standardized, and the subject of surveillance. Just as Michel Foucault demonstrated in the case of sex in the Victorian era, Cameron shows that there is entirely too much talk about talk' - *George Ritzer, University of Maryland*

'This is what an academic book should be: cool, well informed, and entertaining; a thought-provoking and dismaying study of how our everyday sense of talk as a social pleasure is now under threat from the ideology of talk as therapeutic and occupational duty' - *Simon Frith, University of Stirling*

'This wonderful work asks why so much contemporary energy is devoted to teaching people how to communicate properly - as if talking to one another were a technical accomplishment rather than an essential feature of human sociality. Cameron is an astute communication theorist (deceptively so, for she commits the sin of being readable) and when she writes about all-centre training it is hard not to weep'

Stephen Coleman
University of Leeds

"...excellent: an innovative and insightful analysis. . .Cameron gives new direction to the literature on ideologies of English, beyond the examination of linguistic form and correctness issues."

(Bonnie Urciuoli)

About the Author

Deborah Cameron teaches at Oxford University, where she is Professor of Language and Communication. Her main research interests are in sociolinguistics, discourse analysis and the study of gender and sexuality; her previous publications include *Working with Spoken Discourse* (2001) and *Working with Written Discourse* (with Ivan Panovic, 2014), *Good to Talk?* (2000), *The Myth of Mars and Venus* (2007), and *Verbal Hygiene* (1995/2012).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fern Marshall:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled Good to Talk?: Living and Working in a Communication Culture can be very good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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Russell Howell:

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