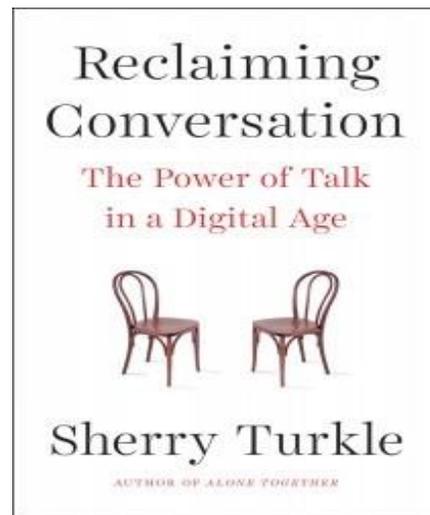


January 20, 2016

*Spotlight on Books*

*Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age* by Sherry Turkle

As a clinical psychologist, Sherry Turkle is uniquely equipped to write about the state of human relationships in the digital world for she has studied the psychology of people's relationships with technology for over thirty years. Hailed by critics as one of the best books of 2015, *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age* is a call to action!



In Turkle's previous robot-focussed book *Alone Together* she conducted extensive interviews and observed her subjects' interactions with their phones and computers determining that the majority of these people were more content with virtual reality and community provided by social media than with real-world community with all its messy and unpredictable neediness. While not a Luddite (she after all holds an endowed chair at M.I.T.!), for she appreciates the positive impact technology has had on the world, she is also now a skeptic.

In *Reclaiming Conversation*, Sherry Turkle takes her thesis a little further exploring the impact on conversation of electronic communication. Make no mistake the author exhorts, they are not the same and she believes that an overreliance on the digital lies at the root of the reduced empathy that contemporary teachers observe in their students. As well, Turkle feels that family conversations have been impacted and she mourns this for she believes that it is these conversations that build empathy and help foster "the development of trust and self-esteem" protecting children against bullying. She calls on all of us to resist the tyranny of digital overload and to bring face-to-face conversations back into our homes, schools and offices.

Prepare to be inspired to change by *Reclaiming Conversation* and if the subject is of interest, please feel welcome to join us at Yellowknife Public Library's first *Philosopher's Café* of the year. On Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. the topic will be "Social Media: does it unite us or bring out the worst in our society?" Come and share your opinion and hear what others have to say.

- Review prepared by Deborah Bruser