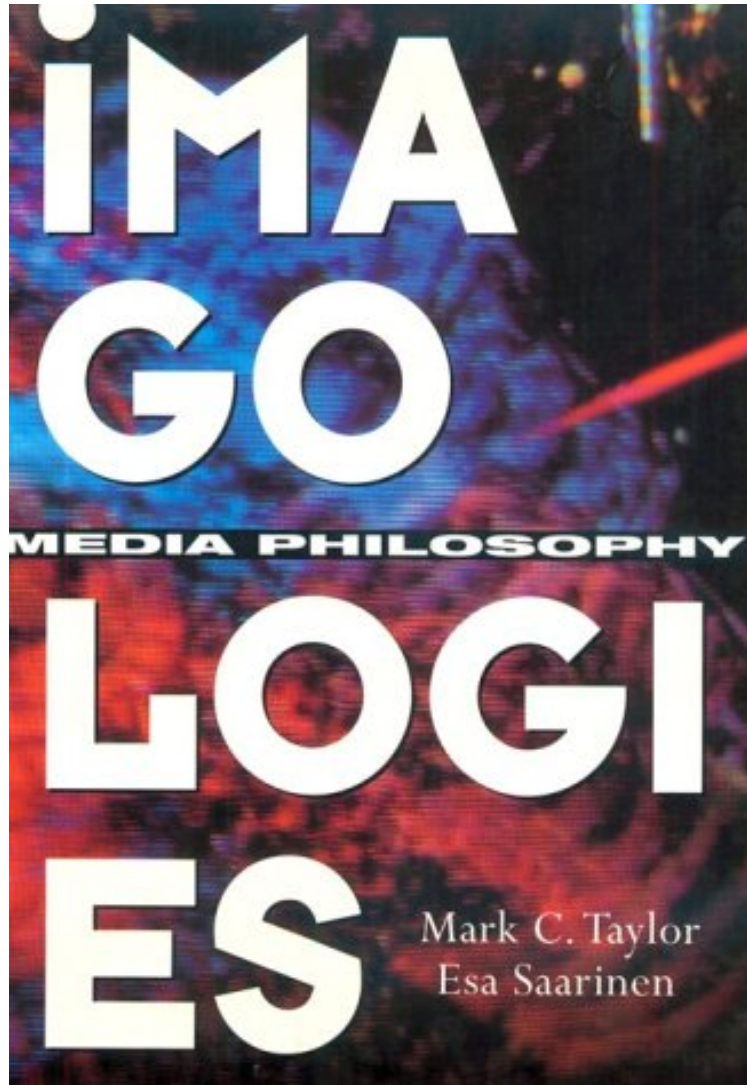


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Imagologies: Media Philosophy

Mark C. Taylor, Esa Saarinen

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Mark C. Taylor, Esa Saarinen : Imagologies: Media Philosophy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Imagologies: Media Philosophy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Yes, an anti-Book! and a Book. The Book. By 1kenthomasFirst, I'm a participant in the seminar. If there were to be another edition, I'd suggest to Mark and Esa, that they or we preface, with clear intro materials, given the intervening time. Otherwise, I think this "book" is very misunderstood, at least, in the reviews I see above. In many ways, it is not a book in the traditional sense, unless you are thinking of Joyce. It is not meant to follow the conventions of academic writing, nor to be aimed at the academy, which it considers largely isolated from, and irrelevant to, our society and world. In some ways, in 2012, we might take seriously, that it presaged

what is being termed, somewhat sillily, "the end of the book." This book is a very serious effort, to put our ideas and thoughts on media, communication and society, onto paper in brief form, that might be read by many, not in the narrow and often irrelevant halls of academia. It is also a record of our Symposium, after all-- a Socratic exercise. The series of email letters which are interspersed, are not incidental, but artifacts of that event, to be read and interpreted if you choose-- an interpretive challenge, a mental challenge, a challenge in the Socratic method. And as much of this book which is an anti-book, a challenge to the current practices of writing books, an exploration of alternative practices of writing, a book, which might excite Dialogue. And of course, the email record between Esa and Mark and some of us, is but a subset, of the messages which went back and forth between the continents, among we students, padeia, intense Dialogues, the experiment in international education, our struggle to understand each other across distances. One might well reflect, that Plato wrote the Dialogues, at a distance in time, from the actual conversations. That they are set, at Athen's port, the boundary point, of exchange between nations. Otherwise, the materials in the anti-book, and how they are presented, are scattered, hypertextual, readable at any entry point, interspersed, non-linear and anti-linear. They present the complex materials we discussed, and the ideas of many authors, in a format that may be accessible to and engage, the many, not just the readers of academic philosophy. They are "queer;" they challenge the "straight" line, the tradition of linear, analytic interpretation. This was done, in an effort to say something that might be relevant to the global conversation, mean something to actual people, to our lives, and quite in the face of the trivocracy of current academia. This book, does not aim to be yet another inaccessible, academic tract read by few. It does not argue, and does not want to argue. It invites, to a conversation. It dares, to explore, to be a travelogue of the journey, rather than a pointless academic display of precision and wit and needless expertise. It is written from deep hope and love, of our world, in Hannah Arendt's sense. Many of the academic "reviewers" here seem to have missed that, or to be responding with naive gut hostility. In opposition to them, I thus offer my recommendation-- and invitation-- to our Great Conversation.

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not what was listed...By John Hopkins
The book was listed as hard-cover but had a soft cover that was completely detached from the glue-bound book. Why can't places just say what they've got and go from there. It's a pain in the rear to return something like this.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Academics Succumbing to Media Glitz, Ho-Hum....By A Customer
IMAGOLOGIES is an antibook concerned with what it considers to be a necessary shift in the academic approach to media philosophy. According to the authors this shift is cultural, intellectual and philosophical. It calls for a restructuring of media function and capability within cyberspace, within the realm of the simulacrum and within the mediatrix. IMAGOLOGIES looks at virtually every facet of the radical changes taking place within communications, from cyborgs and electronics to hypertext and cyberwar. Its intellectual approach is both unorthodox and unsettling, yet within its pages are valuable perceptions which sometimes illustrate the current and future direction of electronic media. Much of this production is innovative, timely and trendy. Still, there are journal correspondences here between the authors that I found much too tedious. And, at its worst, IMAGOLOGIES turns outdated technological terms into tired e-mail banter, capsulizes philosophical content into rampant sound bites, and visually distracts with graphical text and eye-catching geometries. Everything about this work is designed to catch the eye. But it tries too hard to dazzle. Philosophical scholars and intellectuals may feel the need to look deeper, and may eventually interpret these markers as red flags when determining the overall validity of this antibook's rhetoric, and its final destiny within the narrow halls of academia.

Imagologies: Media Philosophy is no ordinary book. Provocative, irritating and stimulating, this is a work to be engaged, questioned and pondered. As the web of telecommunications technology spreads across the globe, the site of economic development, social change, and political struggle shifts to the realm of media and communications. In this remarkable book, Mark Taylor and Esa Saarinen challenge readers to rethink politics, economics, education, religion, architecture, and even thinking itself. When the world is wired, nothing remains the same. To explore the new electronic frontier with Taylor and Saarinen is to see the world anew. A revolutionary period needs a revolutionary book. Get a head start of the 21st Century: Read Imagologies: Media Philosophy

"...[the authors] have raised profound questions about how we will talk to each other, work with each other, and live with each other in the visual electronic age that lies ahead." -- William Weld, Governor of Massachusetts
"...enacts and enunciates a new philosophy of communication..." -- Cornel West, Princeton University
"Imagologies is a loopy, active and uninhibited investigation of electronic interplay . . ." -- LA Weekly
About the Author
Mark C. Taylor is widely recognized as one of America's leading philosophers and cultural critics. He is currently the Preston S. Parish Professor of Humanities at Williams College. He is the author of twelve books, including most recently *Disfiguring: Art, Architecture, and Religion*. Esa Saarinen is the best-known Finnish intellectual of his generation. He is Acting Professor of Philosophy at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and has made appearances on Finnish television and radio, in newspapers, and magazines. He is the author of nine books.