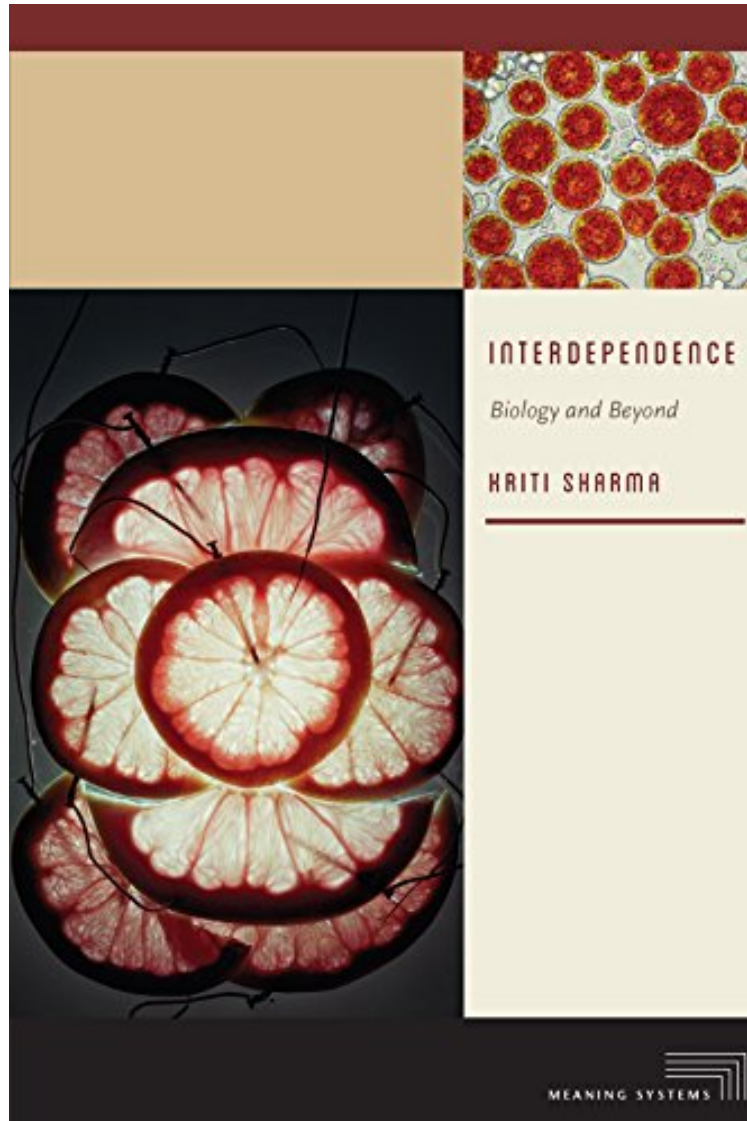


(Free download) Interdependence: Biology and Beyond (Meaning Systems)

Interdependence: Biology and Beyond (Meaning Systems)

Kriti Sharma

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Kriti Sharma : Interdependence: Biology and Beyond (Meaning Systems) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Interdependence: Biology and Beyond (Meaning Systems):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mind expanding if not world expanding By Earl In Interdependence Kriti Sharma introduces the idea of interdependence, or contingentism, as opposed to the idea of the interaction between independent entities. This is on the large scale as in ALL things really "exist only in dependence on other things." Before I continue I want to admit that I have read the book twice and have still not managed to wrap my mind

around the concept entirely. For this reason I will avoid trying to give any kind of overview of the theory. This idea is indeed all encompassing which, though the examples are from her field of expertise in the biological sciences, means it can and needs to be applied rigorously to other areas of knowledge. Additionally, this is not a science book but a philosophy book (or at least a philosophical book) which happens to use science as its vehicle of applied thought. I find far more in this theory to convince than cause doubt, and with more consideration I have come to appreciate it considerably. This should be a good read for anyone in any field who enjoys pondering the hows and whys of life and all it encompasses. Using one's own area of expertise or interest allows an expanding number of possible avenues into the theory since it is meant to be applied broadly. I judged this book not on whether it was a good read (which it was) but rather on whether it contributed to my ways of understanding. For that reason I would suggest reading the book and thinking about it closely before making any judgement. An extra bonus for anyone engaging with the ideas came to me several weeks ago. I found myself unexpectedly away from everything I would normally have been doing. As a result I became an observer of the world around me and began trying to explain to myself how what might appear as an interaction might actually be interdependence. It truly made that time interesting instead of boring and gave me additional ways of viewing and appreciating the world. Reviewed from an ARC made available by the publisher via NetGalley.

From biology to economics to information theory, the theme of interdependence is in the air, framing our experiences of all sorts of everyday phenomena. Indeed, the network may be the ascendant metaphor of our time. Yet precisely because the language of interdependence has become so commonplace as to be almost banal, we miss some of its most surprising and far-reaching implications. In *Interdependence*, biologist Kirti Sharma offers a compelling alternative to the popular view that interdependence simply means independent things interacting. Sharma systematically shows how interdependence entails the mutual constitution of one thing by another how all things come into being only in a system of dependence on others. In a step-by-step account filled with vivid examples, Sharma shows how a coherent view of interdependence can help make sense not only of a range of everyday experiences but also of the most basic functions of living cells. With particular attention to the fundamental biological problem of how cells pick up signals from their surroundings, Sharma shows that only an account which replaces the perspective of individual cells interacting with external environments with one centered in interdependent, recursive systems can adequately account for how life works. This book will be of interest to biologists and philosophers, to theorists of science, of systems, and of cybernetics, and to anyone curious about how life works. Clear, concise, and insightful, *Interdependence: Biology and Beyond* explicitly offers a coherent and practical philosophy of interdependence and will help shape what interdependence comes to mean in the twenty-first century.

It is a rare treat to indulge in reading a work that switches between philosophical reasoning and empirical biology. This is just what Sharma does, illuminating the concept of interdependence from its everyday usage to focus in on the micro-scale network of processes that are contingent on interactions of organisms with one another and their environments. (The Biologist) Kirti Sharma has written a remarkable book that moves seamlessly from the empirical world of biology indeed, the microscales of test tubes and cells and molecules to the consideration of the broadest philosophical concepts that define how we comprehend existence itself. The writing is lively and the illustrations are drawn from a wide and interdisciplinary range of sources and experiences, yet the development of the ideas is scholarly, careful, and well documented. *Interdependence: Biology and Beyond* will elevate and churn your thinking. It is Sharma's first book and the reader feels privileged to be present at the start of an exciting intellectual journey. (Peter White University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) In setting forth her vision of contingentism that objects are really webs of processes contingent on multiple interacting conditions Sharma moves eloquently back and forth between biology and philosophy. The book is a model of accessible but serious and elegant science writing. (Evan Thompson University of British Columbia) *Interdependence* is an exceptionally original work of comprehensive theorizing. Conceptually subtle, empirically rigorous, and compellingly argued, it addresses some of the most fundamental questions in theoretical biology and demonstrates their close relation to central problems in our ideas of knowledge, existence, and reality. (Barbara Herrnstein Smith author, *Scandalous Knowledge: Science, Truth and the Human*) About the Author Kirti Sharma, a microbiologist, is completing her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.