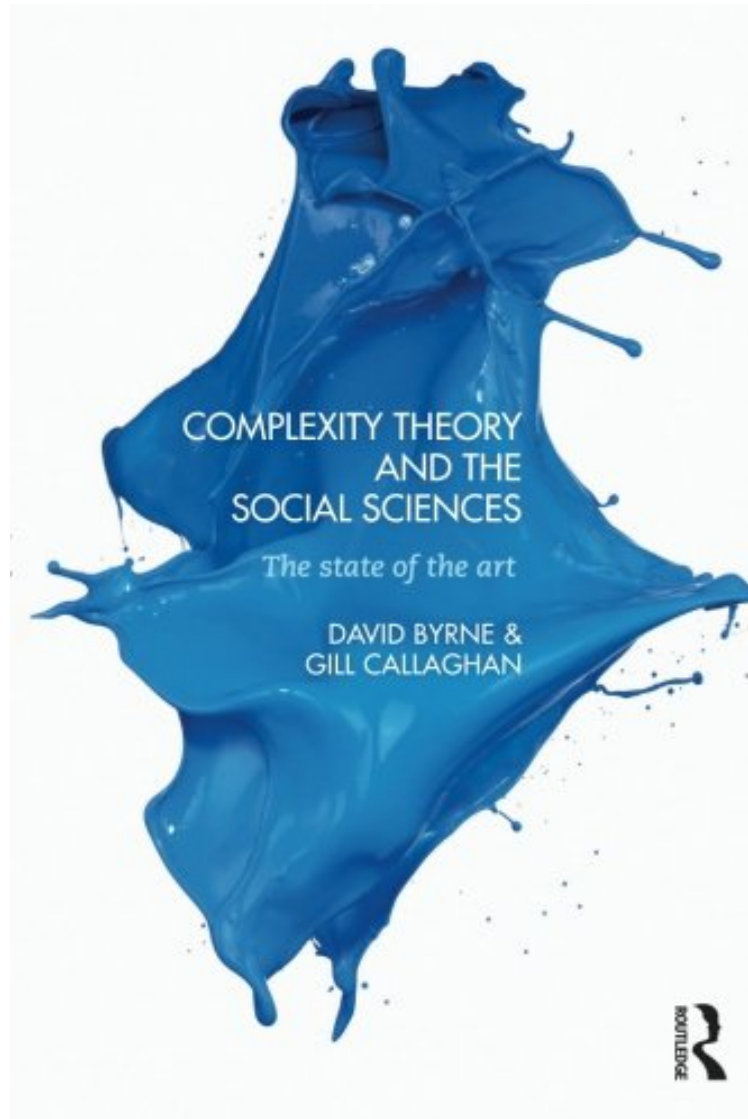


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David Byrne, Gillian Callaghan
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philosophical issues is very welcome because it allows the reader to connect complexity science to larger issues in the philosophy of science. Often, attention in complexity writing is spoiled by efforts to be over mathematical and this is not true of this work. However, this is a very rigorous treatment of the topic and the reader is not left with the feeling that the writers were trying to popularize complexity. I was also pleased by the attention to the difficulties of doing research in the area. The book is not for the faint of heart. We are brought face-to-face with the deep implications of recognizing the complex nature of social systems. A must-read for anyone committed to a search for better understandings of social systems. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By ARDEN VERY USEFUL APPROACH FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS IN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

For the past two decades, complexity has informed a range of work across the social sciences. There are diverse schools of complexity thinking, and authors have used these ideas in a multiplicity of ways, from health inequalities to the organization of large scale firms. Some understand complexity as emergence from the rule-based interactions of simple agents and explore it through agent-based modelling. Others argue against such restricted complexity and for the development of case-based narratives deploying a much wider set of approaches and techniques. Major social theorists have been reinterpreted through a complexity lens and the whole methodological programme of the social sciences has been recast in complexity terms. In four parts, this book seeks to establish the state of the art of complexity-informed social science as it stands now, examining: the key issues in complexity theory the implications of complexity theory for social theory the methodology and methods of complexity theory complexity within disciplines and fields. It also points ways forward towards a complexity-informed social science for the twenty-first century, investigating the argument for a post-disciplinary, open social science. Byrne and Callaghan consider how this might be developed as a programme of teaching and research within social science. This book will be particularly relevant for, and interesting to, students and scholars of social research methods, social theory, business and organization studies, health, education, urban studies and development studies.

About the Author David Byrne is Professor of Sociology and Social Policy in the School of Applied Social Science, Durham University. Gill Callaghan is Lecturer in Sociology in the School of Applied Social Science, Durham University.