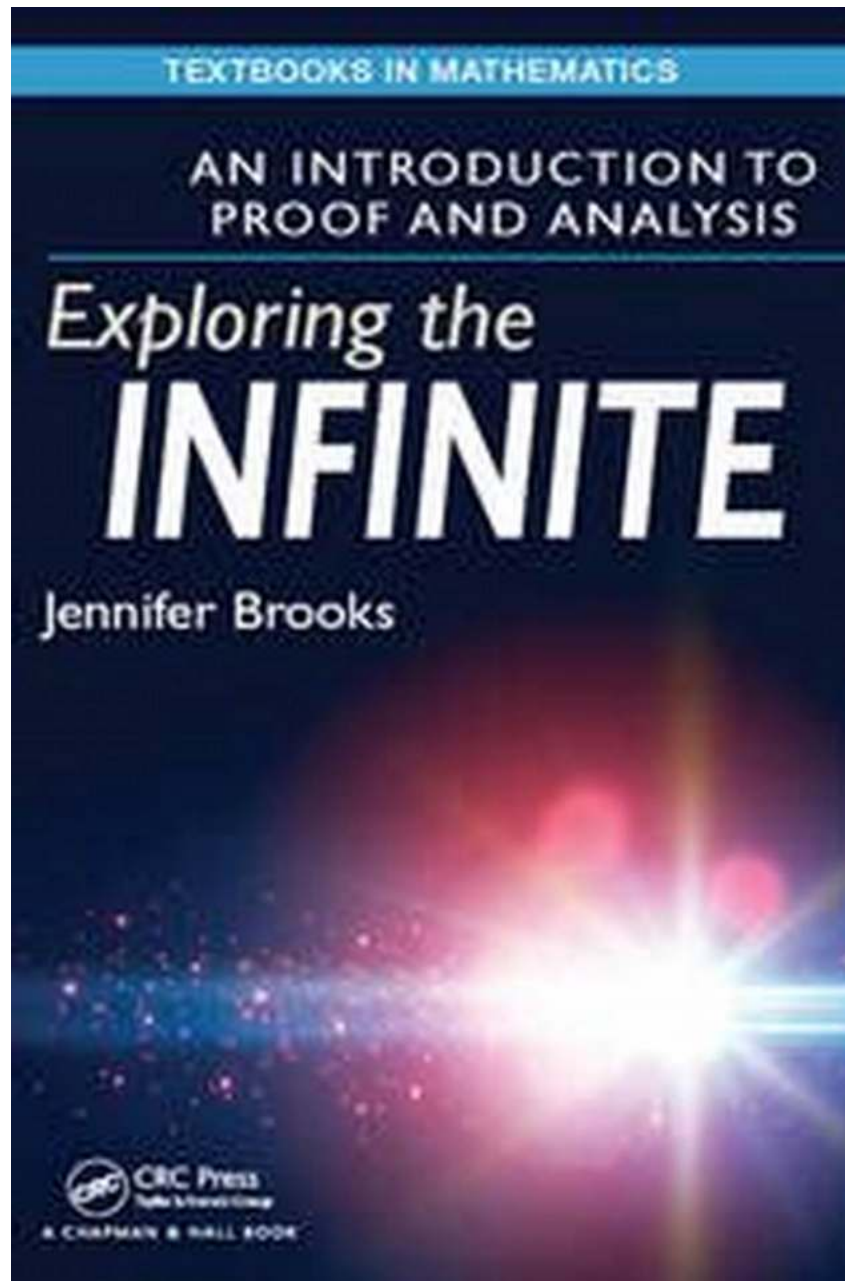


# The Untapped Power of Material Agency: Embracing a Non-Anthropocentric Approach



As humans, we often perceive ourselves as the sole drivers of change and innovation in the world. However, there is an untapped power that lies within the materials and objects that surround us - a power to shape our environment and challenge our anthropocentric worldview. In this article, we will delve into the

concept of material agency and explore how embracing a non-anthropocentric approach can revolutionize our understanding of the world.

## What is Material Agency?

Material agency simply refers to the capacity of non-human entities, such as objects, to act and influence the world in which we live. It encompasses the idea that materials possess a certain autonomy and capability to shape their surroundings, oftentimes in ways that we may not expect or anticipate.



## Material Agency: Towards a Non-Anthropocentric Approach by Carl Knappett (2008th Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2859 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 481 pages



Take, for example, the humble chair. We often perceive it as a passive object, subject to our desire to sit. However, when we examine the chair through the lens of material agency, we realize that it has the power to dictate our bodily postures, influence our social interactions, and even shape the design principles of our built environments.

## The Non-Anthropocentric Approach

In contrast to the traditional anthropocentric view, which places humans at the center of the universe, a non-anthropocentric approach acknowledges the agency

and vitality of non-human entities. It encourages us to move away from human-centric perspectives and embrace the diverse perspectives of materials, objects, and the environment.

By adopting a non-anthropocentric approach, we begin to challenge our preconceived notions of power, control, and decision-making. Rather than viewing ourselves as the sole creators and manipulators of our environment, we understand that materials and objects influence us just as much as we influence them.

## **Unveiling the Power of Material Agency**

The concept of material agency opens up endless possibilities for creative thinking, problem-solving, and sustainable innovation. By acknowledging the agency of objects and materials, we can tap into their inherent knowledge and wisdom.

Imagine a world where buildings communicate with their inhabitants to optimize energy consumption or where products adapt to our needs based on their understanding of our habits and preferences. These scenarios may seem like science fiction, but they become real possibilities when we embrace the power of material agency.

## **Embracing a Non-Anthropocentric Future**

So how can we embrace a non-anthropocentric approach in our daily lives and design practices?

Firstly, we need to cultivate a sense of curiosity and wonder towards materials and objects. By observing and studying their behavior, characteristics, and potentials, we can uncover the hidden agency within them.

Secondly, we must promote interdisciplinary collaborations. Engaging with experts from various fields, such as scientists, engineers, designers, and philosophers, enables us to unlock the full potential of material agency and its application in diverse contexts.

Lastly, we need to question and challenge established norms and beliefs. This entails reconsidering the linear approach to design and manufacturing and embracing circular and regenerative practices that prioritize the longevity and adaptability of materials.

Material agency serves as a reminder that our world is interconnected and that we are just one part of a complex and dynamic system. By embracing a non-anthropocentric approach, we open ourselves up to new perspectives, opportunities, and innovations.

The power of materials and objects to shape our lives should not be underestimated. Their agency invites us to reimagine our relationship with the world, fostering a more sustainable, harmonious, and inclusive future.



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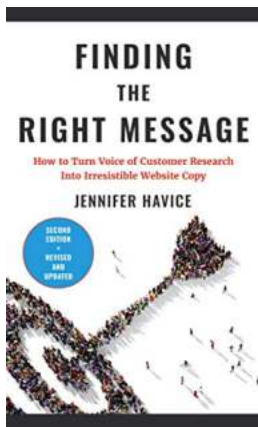


Thus far an 'agent' in the social sciences has always meant someone whose actions bring about change. In this volume, the editors challenge this position and examine the possibility that agency is not a solely human property. Instead, this collection of archaeologists, anthropologists, sociologists and other social scientists explores the symbiotic relationships between humans and material entities (a key opening a door, a speed bump raising a car) as they engage with one another.

 Kal?lah And Dimnah: Fables Of Virtue And Vice (Library Of Arabic Literature 76)

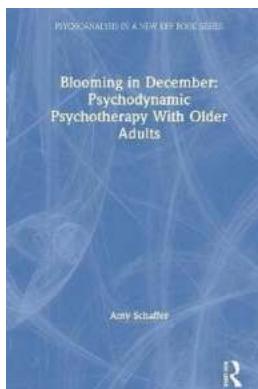
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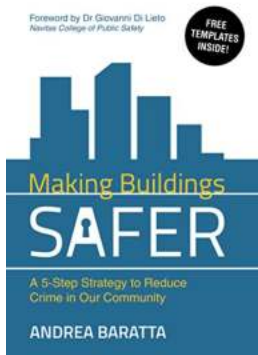
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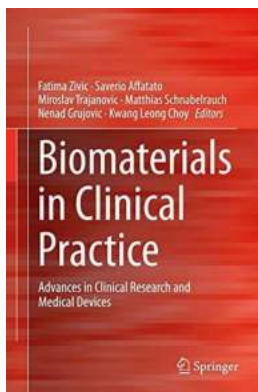
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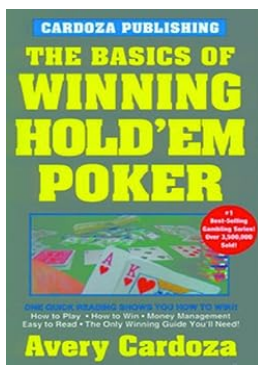
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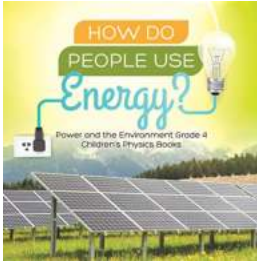
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