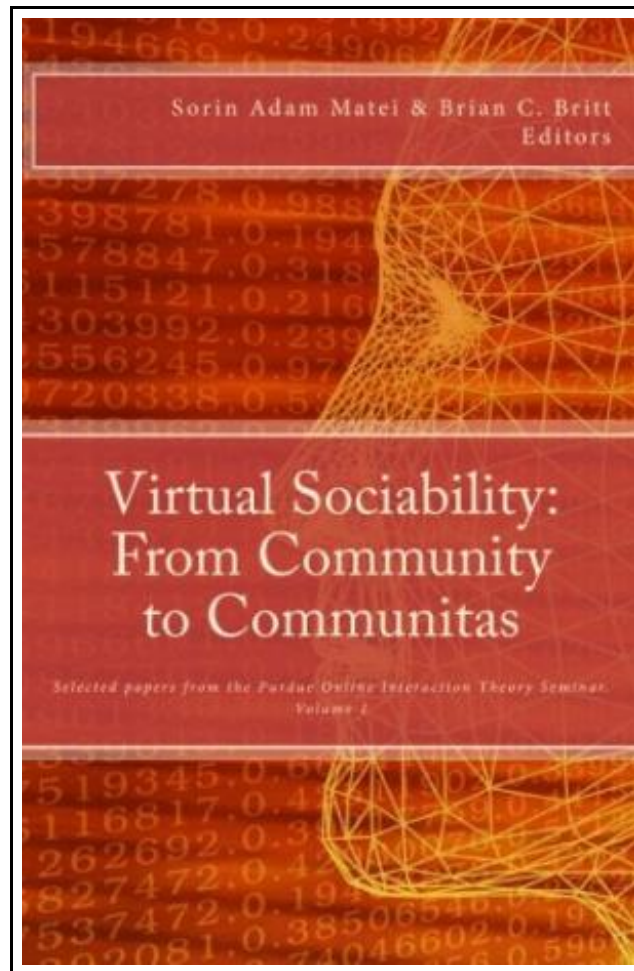


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Createspace, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 214 x 138 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.To what degree can the human exchanges we observe online be called sociability ? In other words, do these exchanges amount to any meaningful type of social organization? Are they more than the mere froth of collective emotion discharging its energy with a lot of noise but little consequence against the wave breakers of social media? Do the social interactions that take place in virtual space-all those kind or not-so-kind words sent back and forth-suggest the same level of commitment, dedication, morality, passion, or even depravity that we see in everyday life? Or, more succinctly, is sociability online less social, less real than what we see in everyday life? The present collection of papers reflects some of the most insightful contributions to the Purdue Online Interaction Seminar. Representing a variety of interpretive frameworks, the conversation is circumscribed by a number of themes, of which two are most important. The first one is the nature of online sociability. Are or could online groups be community-like, bound by ties as strong as those of kith and kin? Should they be qualified as a type of contractual, rational, self-interested society ? Or should we propose a new interpretive framework? Should online communities be seen as a type of communitas, which is a form of social aggregation that appears during certain initiation rituals? If this is so, are communitas-like virtual spaces characterized by the same transient, liminal state that mixes a variety of contradictory characteristics (temporary and permanent, close and distant, essential and fleeting) that we observe in other types of communitas ? Can virtual communitas lead to social and personal transformation, just like its traditional counterpart? Table of Contents Sorin Adam...



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