

HOW TO EMBRACE BOTH DISRUPTION AND DIALOGUE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Racism, oppression, global warming—our world seems to be mired in complex, intractable issues with no clear way forward. But maybe we are looking for a light at the end of the wrong tunnel? We may be looking to resolve our differences and find solutions to our problems too quickly, when instead we need to deepen and intensify our conflicts and prepare for an extended effort to confront the systems that have created and perpetuated them.

The message at the heart of **THE NEUTRALITY TRAP** is that the wisest and ultimately most effective way to deal with our most profound problems is to avoid the lure of easy solutions or premature peace. We need to reach out across our differences but we also need to disrupt the forces that sustain the exploitation of people and the environment. Holding the tension between connecting and disrupting is crucial if we are to confront the social issues we face. We need to engage and talk with one another, but for real change to happen, we also need the wake-up calls of disruption and disorder.

THE NEUTRALITY TRAP challenges all of us to embrace the potential we have to further social progress while cautioning us against reflexively calling for dialogue without also recognizing the necessity for disrupting regressive systems and building social movements. The authors invite us to reconsider our reliance on neutrality, objectivity, and professionalism and instead commit ourselves to justice, equity, and genuine connection.

PRAISE FOR THE NEUTRALITY TRAP

“With wisdom and compassion Font-Guzmán and Mayer give us a framework for understanding today’s polarization and a road map for moving forward. They model the honesty and vulnerability we all need to function in that intersection of conflict resolution and social justice reform.”

—Lucy Moore, Author of **COMMON GROUND ON HOSTILE TURF**

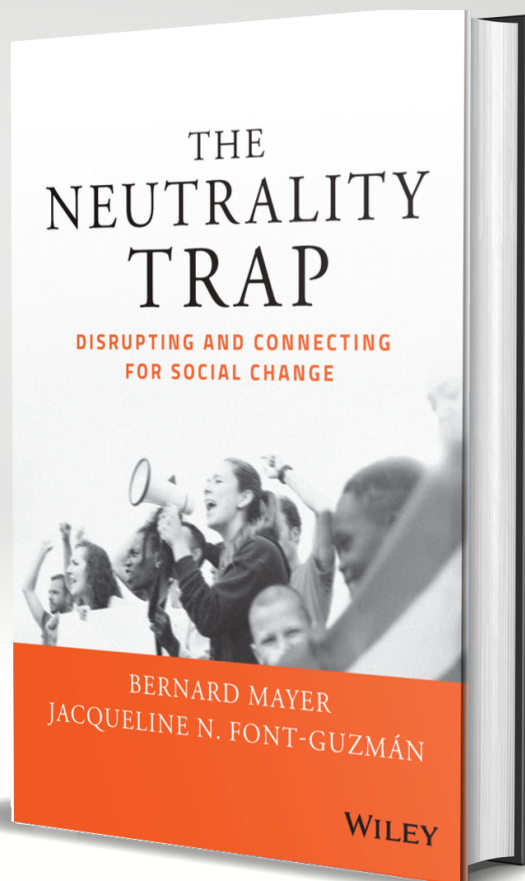
“Mayer and Font-Guzmán take readers beyond easy prescriptions into difficult, necessary, and fruitful ways to engage and support structural social change. Read this book to change your mind. It can change your neighborhood. Read this book to change the world.”

—Michelle LeBaron, Professor and dispute resolution scholar, Peter A. Allard School of Law, The University of British Columbia

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978-1-119-79324-3 | Hardcover
\$25.00 US | \$29.99 CAN | \$41.95 AUS

AVAILABLE JANUARY 2022

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