Our culture is one that speaks rather than listens. From reality TV to political rallies, there is a clamour to be heard, to narrate, and to receive attention. It reduces ‘reality’ to revelation and voyeurism.

The Art of Listening argues that this way of life is having severe and damaging consequences in a world that is increasingly globalized and interconnected. It addresses the question: how can we listen more carefully? Social and cultural theory is combined with real stories from the experiences of the desperate stowaways who hide in the undercarriages of jet planes in order to seek asylum, to the young working-class people who use tattooing to commemorate a lost love.

The Art of Listening shows how sociology is in a unique position to record ‘life passed in living’ and to listen to complex experiences with humility and ethical care, providing a resource to understand the contemporary world while pointing to the possibility of a different kind of future.

‘This is a wise and human piece of writing, concerned to break out of sociology’s academic straitjacket and speak to a wider audience. . .If anything can recover the somewhat tarnished reputation of sociology amongst the general public, then it is a book like this.’ New Humanist

‘The Art of Listening is a rare book in its commitment to vitalize an ethical, global sociology for the twenty-first century. Students are encouraging their parents to read it. Everyone needs this book -- especially jaded academics.’ Sanjay Sharma, British Journal of Sociology - See more at: http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-art-of-listening-9781845201210/#sthash.h1pRz35T.dpuf

**Abstract or Description**

**Item Type:** Book

**Departments, Centres and Research Units:** Sociology

**Date:** 2007

**Item ID:** 2038

**Date Deposited:** 12 Mar 2009 15:42
Listening is an art that requires work, self-discipline, and skill. The art of communication springs as much from knowing when to listen as it does from knowing how to use words well. Ask any good salesperson or negotiator about the value of silence. He or she will tell you good listeners generally make more sales and better deals than good talkers. To sharpen listening skills, you need patience and practice. Here are some suggestions that have helped others become better listeners:

1. Resist the temptation to monopolize conversation. If you like to dominate a situation or feel you know everything, this is a good time to practice restraining yourself.

The Art of Listening is a new documentary about the journey music takes to reach a listener’s ear, from the intent of an instrument maker and composer, to the producers and engineers who capture and preserve an artist’s voice. The film, embedded above, features a wide range of artists, engineers and producers working in a variety of genres: Alex DeTurk Alyssa Bonagura Andrew Scheps Antonio Sanchez Beacon Christopher Willis Dave Smith