

Very Short Introductions online

You are looking at 1-10 of 54 items for: **keyword : identity**

8. Key management

Fred Piper and Sean Murphy

Print Publication Year: 2002 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780192803153 eISBN: 9780191775741 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780192803153.003.0008
Item type: chapter

The security of any cryptographic system is totally dependent on the security of the keys. ‘Key management’ explains how keys must be protected during all phases of their life cycle — key generation, distribution, storage, usage, change, and destruction. It looks at the risks to which keys are likely to be exposed, and discusses some practical solutions. To be effective, a key management scheme needs to be carefully chosen to ensure that it meets the business needs and implementation requirements of the system. Key hierarchies are explained along with management of keys in networks using a trusted management centre. Finally key recovery and back-up are reviewed.

1. Introduction

Fred Piper and Sean Murphy

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The ‘Introduction’ outlines the aims of this VSI, which is to present a non-technical introduction to cryptology — the art and science of code-making and code-breaking — and to show why we all need to understand how it works and what it can achieve. It presents cryptography as an interesting, important topic and it should enable the reader to appreciate the impact cryptography has had on our history and is likely to have on our future. It should also facilitate understanding of the problems that the increased availability of cryptography causes for governments and law enforcement agencies.

5. Underdogs

Matthew Bevis

Print Publication Year: 2012 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780199601714 eISBN: 9780191778131 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780199601714.003.0006
Item type: chapter

‘Underdogs’ explores the attraction of the less fortunate in comedy. Socrates suggests that we enjoy the spectacle of others doing daft things we would secretly like to do ourselves.

Nietzsche suggests that the comedian's inner craving is most often observable in 'the lower classes', and from early times comic instincts have been in league with different types of lowness. The fool has proved to be an enduring bequest to comic forms. There are two types of fool: the unwitting and the more knowing. Think of Shakespeare's 'natural' fool and 'artificial' fool.

1. Identity

Lynda Mugglestone

Print Publication Year: 2011 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780199573790 eISBN: 9780191777639 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780199573790.003.0001
Item type: chapter

'Identity' makes the point that dictionaries are popularly seen in terms of constraint and regulation, defining rather than describing the language. Instead, they profoundly engage with how we understand the world and articulate the nature of what we perceive. They document the changes in such perceptions, and in the expressions we may come to use. While dictionaries must provide information on 'correct' rather than 'incorrect' forms, it is in descriptive rather than prescriptive correctness that the evidence in modern dictionaries resides. Dictionaries are far from uniform. Size, language, and intended audience all bring diversity, as does the medium itself — book, CD-ROM, online, or app.

7. Performative language

Jonathan Culler

Print Publication Year: 2011 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780199691340 eISBN: 9780191778384 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780199691340.003.0007
Item type: chapter

'Performative language' considers issues concerning the meaning and effects of language, identity and the nature of the subject. Performative utterances do not describe but perform the action they designate. Theorists have long asserted that we must attend to what literary language does as much as to what it says, and the concept of the performative provides a linguistic and philosophical justification for this idea. The performative brings to centre stage an active, world-making use of language, which resembles literary language — and helps us to conceive of literature as act or event. The work of Austin and Derrida develops the theory of performativity and Butler applies it to gender.

7. Racist identities: ambivalence, contradiction, and commitment

Ali Rattansi

Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780192805904 eISBN: 9780191776137 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780192805904.003.0008
Item type: chapter

People are often accused of using racialized language but this is not the same as being called a racist. What constitutes an identity? An individual or group identity is only partly a matter

of self-identification. Identities are also assigned by others. They imply and rely on the recognition of differences. 'Racist identities: ambivalence, contradiction, and commitment' questions the ambivalence of racialized language, the factors that create an identity, and the contradictions involved in anti-racists claims that prejudice is a product of ignorance and irrationality. Having a possibly unfavourable view of 'outsiders' does not constitute racism, which involves specific beliefs about the existence of race and the possibility of a hierarchical order.

3. Politics and identity

Christopher Butler

Print Publication Year: 2002 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780192802392 eISBN: 9780191775550 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780192802392.003.0003
Item type: chapter

The most important postmodernist ethical argument concerns the relationship between discourse and power. 'Politics and identity' outlines Michel Foucault's influential analysis of this relationship in his studies of the history of practices in law, penology, and medicine. The concepts of self and identity are examined through the works of Cindy Sherman, Roland Barthes and postmodern literary texts. Postmodernists successfully adapt Foucauldian arguments to show the ways in which discourses of power are used in all societies to marginalize subordinate groups. Postmodernist thought, in attacking the idea of a notional centre or dominant ideology, facilitated the promotion of a politics of difference. The relationship between postmodernism and feminism is also considered.

3. In and out of character

Matthew Bevis

Print Publication Year: 2012 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780199601714 eISBN: 9780191778131 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780199601714.003.0004
Item type: chapter

Is predictability the secret to good comedy? Character becomes comic as person is reduced to thing, and this thing-ness becomes something habitual. Comic character has a ridiculous compulsion to repeat: one becomes a self-parody. 'In and out of character' looks at comedy in terms of identity and character. The notion of the actor is one of a shady character. The comic mode exacerbates the duplicity of the actor. It confronts audiences not just with an actor playing someone else but also with that character themselves acting, frequently upsetting any settled sense of who they are.

5. People, objects, and identity

Michael Allen Fox

Print Publication Year: 2016 Published Online: Dec 2016 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780198747239 eISBN: 9780191809385 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780198747239.003.0005
Item type: chapter

‘People, objects, and identity’ considers how the home is a major focus in the construction of self-identity and how people carve out home space even within institutions. It suggests that a home is always a house plus many other ingredients, but a house is a home minus many elements. These elements include the people who matter to us and the objects we choose to keep in our homes. The links between home, objects, and personal identity are dramatically illustrated by two stories focusing on the Holocaust. They demonstrate that destroying homes and their occupants’ ties to place also amount to erasing things that mould identities and create networks of memories.

1. What is forensic science?

Jim Fraser

Print Publication Year: 2010 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780199558056 eISBN: 9780191777400 DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780199558056.003.0001
Item type: chapter

‘What is forensic science?’ answers the central questions in a criminal investigation — who, what, where, when, how, and why? More specifically, it is the investigation, explanation, and evaluation of events of legal relevance including the identity, origin, and life history of humans, materials, substances, and artefacts. It uses scientific methodologies to describe, infer, and reconstruct events from fragmentary physical evidence and other relevant information. But whilst the science behind forensic analysis is universal, the law is not, and varies widely from country to country. What may be inadmissible evidence in one legal system may secure a conviction in another.