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## BOOK REVIEW

### **Sławomir Magala. (2025). *Circulating Knowledge and Elites*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.**

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The book "Circulating Knowledge and Elites: Clouds and Crowds" by Sławomir Magala, explores the dynamics of knowledge dissemination, the role of elites, and the impact of technology and media on society. The book discusses the societal implications of artificial intelligence and the spread of knowledge. It questions the role of Enlightenment ideals in modern society and the challenges posed by political correctness, censorship, and the rise of digital technologies.

The author explores the evolution of knowledge, the role of crowds and clouds in shaping public opinion, the influence of virtual realities, and the challenges of navigating a world increasingly dominated by digital and virtual interactions.

The author examines historical and contemporary power dynamics, focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, particularly Poland's Solidarity movement and its role in challenging communist regimes. He critiques the neglect of significant historical events and the persistence of learned ignorance in Western narratives. The book also reveals asymmetry in addressing crimes of genocide, particularly the lack of accountability for communist atrocities compared to Nazi crimes.

The author reflects on the challenges of navigating a world shaped by competing narratives, evolving technologies, and shifting values. He emphasizes the importance of critical thinking, the negotiation of truth, and the role of authority in a world increasingly influenced by entertainment and digital media.

The Key Themes of the books are: Knowledge and Elites, Technology and Media, Historical and Cultural Memory, Relativity and Uncertainty, Solidarity and Cooperation:

*Circulating Knowledge and Elites: Clouds and Crowds* offers a theoretically ambitious and analytically sophisticated examination of how knowledge travels, acquires legitimacy, and becomes embedded in contemporary systems of governance

Pragmatically, the book provides a series of carefully selected case illustrations that show how "cloud" actors—expert committees, policy institutions, credentialed networks, and data-intensive systems—stabilize authority through infrastructures of curation and classification

Stylistically, the text is lucid and engaging despite its conceptual density, making it accessible to a wide scholarly readership. The authors' integration of sociological, political, and technology perspectives is particularly effective, offering a perspective that will be very valuable for researchers examining the entanglements of expertise, digital infrastructures, and authority.

*Circulating Knowledge and Elites: Clouds and Crowds* is an important and timely contribution to the study of knowledge, power, and circulation in contemporary society. Its conceptual innovations and cross-disciplinary synthesis make it a significant contribution to the field. Scholars in technology, political sociology, media studies, and organizational research will find the book both stimulating and provocative. It is likely to serve as a

touchstone for future work on how knowledge moves—and who shapes its movement—in an increasingly complex informational landscape.

Ultimately, *Circulating Knowledge and Elites* is an insightful and rigorous contribution to contemporary debates about expertise, democracy, and the organization of knowledge. It will interest scholars across the humanities and social sciences, as well as practitioners navigating the politics of information in institutional settings. Thought-provoking and elegantly argued, it challenges readers to reconsider who shapes knowledge, who benefits from its circulation, and what forms of public engagement remain possible in a world increasingly mediated by both clouds and crowds.

In sum, the book is a thought-provoking exploration of the interaction between knowledge, power, technology, and societal values. It requires for critical engagement with the evolving dynamics of authority, truth, and collective action in a fast-changing world.

*Circulating Knowledge and Elites: Clouds and Crowds* is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the shifting dynamics of society in the early 21st century.