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TRUST AND POWER

by **N. Luhmann**,
University of Bielefeld, Germany;

translated from the German and edited
by **T. Burns** and **G. Poggi**, both of the
*Department of Sociology, University of
Edinburgh*

This book is made up of two fairly short, separate monographs by Niklas Luhmann, published originally in German. The preface by Gianfranco Poggi gives details of the author and his work. It offers a theoretical treatment, of a quite novel kind, of social relationships which are particularly wide ranging and significant in most aspects of social, political and economic life. One kind of relationship — power, has emerged over the last ten to fifteen years as one of the most widely discussed concepts in the social sciences generally. What Luhmann offers is an entirely new approach which consists of treating structures of power essentially as media of communication which have come to play an increasingly integral and significant part in society as differentiation and complexity have increased.

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