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BOOK REVIEW

A Communications Practitioner Reads Dismantled

A critical review of FC Quiles's Dismantled: A Theory of Broken Mindsets (early reader edition)

A Links Global book review by M. Sanchez, founder of Links Global, a communications firm working at the intersection of trust science, narrative design, and civic engagement. Part of the Links Global article series: Book Reviews. Drawn from 25 years of field practice and evidence-based research in strategic communication, public engagement, and institutional trust.

In Brief

Disclosure: FC Quiles is a professional colleague. This review is offered as an independent critical reading from a communications practitioner's perspective.

FC Quiles's Dismantled wants to be a philosophical framework for transformation in the AI era and a personal testimony at the same time. This review finds the personal narrative has earned its authority and asks whether the framework can earn the same, measuring Quiles's Law against Dweck, Taleb, and the data- colonialism literature, and naming one reservation plainly.

The verdict. Strongest in its biographical prologue and its dedication to the invisible voices; a theory of broken mindsets that still has to earn its law.

The method. Measured against named comparators (Dweck, Taleb, Crawford, Arora, Couldry and Mejias), with one reservation stated and left unresolved.

FC Quiles has written a book that wants to be two things simultaneously: a philosophical framework for personal and organizational transformation, and a personal testimony of a life navigated across borders, setbacks, and reinventions. The most interesting question this early reader edition raises is not whether Quiles succeeds at either of these things individually, but whether he can hold them together in a way that makes each stronger.

The early evidence is promising, uneven, and worth paying attention to.

The Book's Central Proposition

The Theory of Dismantled Mindsets rests on a single, clear claim: that the beliefs, fears, and inherited assumptions that constrain human potential, what Quiles calls limiting mindsets, must be actively and deliberately dismantled before genuine transformation is possible. This is not a new argument in the self- help and business literature. What Quiles is attempting to do, and what makes the project worth taking seriously, is to ground that argument in a specific reading of the AI moment, to argue that the arrival of artificial intelligence as a force reshaping every dimension of professional and social life is both an urgent reason to do this dismantling work and a new set of tools with which to do it.

Whether that grounding succeeds is the critical question, and the early reader edition gives enough material to begin assessing it.

Where the Book Is Strongest

The prologue is the best writing in the early reader edition, and it should inform every subsequent publishing decision Quiles makes about this book.

The biographical arc (from the family business in San Juan through post-earthquake Haiti to the global accelerator programs) is specific, honest, and earned. The Haiti passage in particular: "true innovation emerges from chaos, not from perfect control. It thrives when we listen deeply, build trust gradually, and adapt to reality as it is, rather than as we wish it to be." This is not the language of a management book. It is the language of someone who has actually been somewhere difficult and learned something real from being there. It is the passage that earns the reader's trust before the framework argument begins.

The dedication deserves its own note. It closes with an acknowledgment of "the billions of invisible voices of the digital age across the world — from marginalized nations, overlooked regions, and silenced communities — those without structured data, without presence, and without a voice in the algorithmic future." From a communications perspective, this is the book's most consequential claim: the one that distinguishes it most sharply from the overwhelmingly Northern, predominantly white, institutionally comfortable body of AI and transformation literature it will sit alongside. If Quiles delivers on this commitment in the book's substantive chapters, he will have written something genuinely necessary. If it remains a dedication without operational consequence in the analysis, the gap between aspiration and execution will be visible to exactly the readers this claim is designed to reach.

Where the Book Needs Development

The tension the communications practitioner notices most acutely in the early reader edition is one of register: a persistent oscillation between the language of philosophical inquiry and the language of motivational content that the book has not yet resolved.

"Quiles' Law of Dismantled Mindsets: Only by breaking down fear, greed, and control can we rebuild ourselves and unlock true potential." This is stated twice in the early pages, in a format designed to signal intellectual authority. But the formulation has the structure of an aphorism rather than an argument. For a book that claims to challenge inherited assumptions and demand rigorous thinking, the central proposition needs more than statement. It needs demonstration: the specific, evidence-grounded, intellectually rigorous account of how fear, greed, and the need for control function as limiting mechanisms, what the evidence says about dismantling them, and why this theory predicts outcomes better than competing frameworks.

The preface and opening sections contain language that reaches for inspiration where the argument is still doing the work of conviction: "Each page brings you closer to the leaders, ideas, and innovations shaping a more connected and vibrant hemisphere." This is marketing language. It is not wrong, but it is doing a different job than the philosophical and analytical work that the book's central proposition requires. The reader who arrives because the Haiti prologue convinced them that Quiles has something real to say may be disoriented by the transition to this register.

This is a solvable problem, and the solution is not to choose between the personal and the analytical. The best books in this space, the ones that have earned genuine intellectual authority while reaching wide audiences, hold both simultaneously. What they do not do is alternate between them in ways that make each seem to undercut the other.

Measured Against Its Comparators

The claim that limiting mindsets must be "actively and deliberately dismantled" before transformation is possible sits in a crowded lineage, and it should be judged against it rather than on its own terms. Carol Dweck's growth-mindset research spent two decades building a falsifiable, evidence-tested account of how beliefs about ability shape performance. Nassim Taleb's antifragility framework, which Dismantled echoes almost precisely in its treatment of chaos ("true innovation emerges from chaos, not from perfect control"), earned its authority by stress-testing the claim against historical and financial systems, not personal anecdote alone. Measured against either comparator, Quiles' Law is closer to a thesis statement than to a tested framework: it has not yet done the empirical or logical work that earns a claim the status of "law."

The dedication's claim about the "invisible voices" of the algorithmic future places the book, whether intentionally or not, in conversation with a specific body of work: Payal Arora's The Next Billion Users, Kate Crawford's Atlas of AI, and the data-colonialism literature associated with Nick Couldry and Ulises Mejias. That literature earns its claims about structural exclusion through fieldwork, data analysis, and named case studies of how specific systems fail specific populations. The early reader edition of Dismantled asserts the same concern with comparable moral seriousness but without yet doing comparable evidentiary work. That is not a fatal problem for an early reader edition, but it means the book, as it currently stands, has not yet earned the company its dedication invites it to keep.

An Unresolved Reservation

One point in the early reader edition did not work for me, and I want to state it plainly rather than soften it into a developmental note. "Quiles' Law of Dismantled Mindsets" is presented twice in the opening pages, in near-identical language, formatted to read as a settled principle. Repeating a claim does not strengthen it, and on a second reading the repetition felt less like emphasis and more like a substitute for the argument that had not yet arrived. I do not know whether the full manuscript resolves this, and I am not going to predict that it will. It is a genuine reservation, not a solvable formatting issue.

The Communications Dimension That Deserves Explicit Development

The "invisible voices" commitment in the dedication opens an intellectual obligation that I hope the full manuscript fulfills: a genuine reckoning with how AI systems reproduce the invisibility of the communities Quiles names.

From a communications practitioner's perspective, the most important contribution this book could make is to bring a Latin American and Caribbean lens to the AI transformation conversation, not as an outsider's critique of technology designed elsewhere, but as an insider's account of what transformation looks like from communities that the dominant AI narrative rarely sees. The experience Quiles describes (navigating between the San Juan family business and Haitian post-earthquake chaos and global accelerator programs) is the experience of someone who has inhabited multiple systems simultaneously and understands from the inside how differently technology, governance, and opportunity are distributed across them.

That experience is directly relevant to the book's central argument. The dismantling of limiting mindsets looks different when the mindsets in question have been imposed by structural exclusion rather than chosen by individual psychology. Quiles has the biographical authority to make this

argument in ways that most AI and transformation literature cannot. Whether the full manuscript deploys that authority is the question on which the book's genuine contribution will depend.

Who Should Read This Book

The readers who will find most value in Dismantled are professionals navigating the AI transition who are looking for a framework that takes seriously both the transformative potential of the technology and the structural inequities that determine how that transformation is experienced. They are readers who have found the dominant AI literature too North-centric, too techno-optimistic, and too disconnected from the complexity of institutional life outside the major technology hubs.

If the full manuscript delivers on the commitment the prologue and dedication make, if Quiles follows through on the intellectual obligation of the "invisible voices" framing, those readers will find something genuinely useful here. The mindset-transformation genre itself is not scarce; Dweck, Taleb, and a decade of business literature have already staked that ground. What the market genuinely lacks is that argument made by someone with Quiles' specific biographical standing to make it, and grounded in evidence at the level Dweck's and Taleb's work required to earn their claims. The personal narrative has earned authority. Whether the framework earns the same is still the open question, and the comparators above are the bar it needs to clear.

The work of integration is the work still ahead. This early reader edition is a promising foundation.

The book. *Dismantled: A Theory of Broken Mindsets* (early reader edition), by FC Quiles, shared by the author with colleagues. See the author's post on LinkedIn.

Where This Fits

The mindset argument this review examines is one Links Global makes in its own terms in Dismantling Mindset: The Hardest Communications Problem Is the One Inside You. The AI questions it raises are taken up in AI for Good and AI Literacy Is Not What You Think It Is.

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