Governing Maya Communities and Lands in Belize

Indigenous Rights, Markets, and Sovereignties

LAURIE KROSHUS MEDINA

Confronting a debt crisis, the Belizean government has strategized to maximize revenues from lands designated as state property, privatizing lands for cash crop production and granting concessions for timber and oil extraction. Meanwhile, conservation NGOs have lobbied to establish protected areas on these lands to address a global biodiversity crisis. They promoted ecotourism as a market-based mechanism to fund both conservation and debt repayment; ecotourism also became a mechanism for governing lands and people— even state actors themselves—through the market. Mopan and Q’eqchi’ Maya communities, dispossessed of lands and livelihoods through these efforts, pursued claims for Indigenous rights to their traditional lands through Inter-American and Belizean judicial systems. This book examines the interplay of conflicting forms of governance that emerged as these strategies intersected: state performances of sovereignty over lands and people, neoliberal rule through the market, and Indigenous rights-claiming, which challenged both market logics and practices of sovereignty.

LAURIE KROSHUS MEDINA is the director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and an associate professor of anthropology at Michigan State University. She is the author of Negotiating Economic Development: Identity Formation and Collective Action in Belize.
The Politics of Potential
Global Health and Gendered Futures in South Africa
MICHELLE PENTECOST

The first one thousand days of human life, or the period between conception and age two, is one of the most pivotal periods of human development. Optimizing nutrition during this time not only prevents childhood malnutrition but also determines future health and potential. The Politics of Potential examines early life interventions in the first one thousand days of life in South Africa, drawing on fieldwork from international conferences, government offices, health-care facilities, and the everyday lives of fifteen women and their families in Cape Town. Michelle Pentecost explores various aspects of a politics of potential, a term that underlines the first one thousand days concept and its effects on clinical care and the lives of childbearing women in South Africa. Why was the First one thousand Days project so readily adopted by South Africa and many other countries? Pentecost not only explores this question but also discusses the science of intergenerational transmissions of health, disease, and human capital and how this constitutes new forms of intergenerational responsibility. The women who are the target of first one thousand days interventions are cast as both vulnerable and responsible for the health of future generations, such that, despite its history, intergenerational responsibility in South Africa remains ring-fenced in powerfully gendered and racialized ways.

MICHELLE PENTECOST is a physician-anthropologist and senior lecturer in global health and social medicine at King’s College London.

The Best Place
Addiction, Intervention, and Living and Dying Young in Vancouver
DANYA FAST

In both local and international imaginations, Vancouver, Canada, is often celebrated as one of the world’s most beautiful, cosmopolitan, and livable cities. Simultaneously, the city continues to be ground zero for successive waves of public health emergency and intervention, including a recent and unprecedented drug overdose crisis driven by the proliferation of illicitly manufactured fentanyl and related analogs in the local drug supply. In The Best Place: Addiction, Intervention, and Living and Dying Young in Vancouver, Danya Fast explores these politics of place from the perspectives of young people who use drugs. Those who are the subject of this book were in many ways relegated to the social, spatial, and economic margins of the city. Yet, they were also often at the very center of city life and state projects, including the project of protecting life in the context of the current overdose crisis.

DANYA FAST is an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

Rutgers University Press • Anthropology SS24
In popular culture, trailer parks are frequently stigmatized as places where only the trashiest Americans would choose to live. In reality, however, they are one of the few viable living options for working-class families in the midst of a nationwide affordable housing shortage. Trailer parks can provide a supportive community for marginalized Americans—but what happens when a trailer park is forced to close?

*Trailer Park America* offers a detailed study of one such case, when the Syringa Mobile Home Park in rural northern Idaho suffered a sewage contamination, resulting in residents’ water being shut off for over three months, eventually leading to the park’s closure. Sociologist Leontina Hormel puts a human face on residents whom local authorities largely viewed as a nuisance—the single-mother households, veterans, recovering addicts, and people with disabilities who were forced to either relocate or face homelessness. Yet she also shows how these marginalized people fought back, defending the rights and dignity of residents, negotiating with local government, and filing a class-action lawsuit that reached the federal courts. In the trailer park, she finds not only stories of adversity but also hope for Americans from different backgrounds to rally together and battle against an unfair system.

**LEONTINA HORMEL** is a professor of sociology at the University of Idaho. Her research interests include political economy, environmental sociology, international development, community action, and gender and class inequalities. She has conducted ethnographic and survey work in Ukraine, in the Russian Federation, and throughout the state of Idaho.
The Farm & Wilderness Summer Camps
Progressive Ideals in the Twentieth Century
EMILY K. ABEL AND MARGARET K. NELSON

“Tamarack Farm, the Farm and Wilderness work camp, changed my life during my four summers. Counsellors and campers opened my eyes to a bigger world and encouraged me to help make it a better world. This book is a labor of love that describes why so many of us feel that way about F&W.”
—John Wilhelm, Tamarack Farm 1960–1963, retired union president

The well-known Farm & Wilderness (F&W) camps, founded in 1939 by Ken and Susan Webb, resembled most other private camps of the same period in many ways, but the Farm & Wilderness camps were some of the first private camps to become racially integrated. Emily K. Abel and Margaret K. Nelson explore how ideals considered progressive in the 1940s and 1950s had to be reconfigured by the camps to respond to shifts in culture and society as well as to new understandings of race and ethnicity, social class, gender, and sexual identity. This book tells a story of progressive ideals, crises of leadership, childhood challenges, and social adaptation in the quintessential American summer camp.

EMILY K. ABEL is a professor emerita at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Public Health. She is the author of many books including Prelude to Hospice: Florence Wald, Dying People, and Their Families (Rutgers University Press) and Elder Care in Crisis: How the Social Safety Net Fails Families.

MARGARET K. NELSON is A. Barton Hepburn Professor Emerita of Sociology at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. Most recently she is the author of Like Family: Narratives of Fictive Kinship (Rutgers University Press, 2020) and Keeping Family Secrets: Shame and Silence in Memoirs from the 1950s.
City of Men
Masculinities and Everyday Morality on Public Transport
ROMIT CHOWDHURY
In South Asian urban landscapes, men are everywhere. And yet we do not seem to know very much about precisely what men do in the city as men. How do men experience gender in city spaces? What are the interactional dynamics between different groups of men on city streets? How do men adjudicate between good and bad conduct in urban spaces? Through ethnographic descriptions of copresence on public transport in Kolkata, this book brings into sight the gendered logics of cooperation and everyday morality through which masculinities take up space in cities. It follows the labor geographies of auto-rickshaw and taxi operators and their interactions with traffic police and commuters to argue that the gendered fabric of urban life needs to be understood as a product of situational forms of cooperation between different social groups. Such an orientation sheds light on the part played by everyday morality and provisional support in upholding male privilege in the city.

ROMIT CHOWDHURY is a senior lecturer in sociology at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He is the coeditor with Z. A. Baset of Men and Feminism in India.

Ways of Belonging
Undocumented Youth in the Shadow of Illegality
FRANCESCA MELONI
Ways of Belonging examines the experiences of undocumented young people who are excluded from K–12 schools in Canada and are rendered invisible to the education system. Canadian law doesn’t mention the existence of undocumented children, and thus their access to education rests on discretionary practices and is often denied altogether. This book brings the stories of undocumented young people vividly alive, putting them into conversation with the perspectives of the different actors in schools and courts who fail to include these young people.

Drawing on five years of ethnographic fieldwork, Francesca Meloni shows how ambivalence shapes the lives of young people who are caught between the desire to belong and the impossibility of fully belonging. Meloni pays close attention to these young people’s struggles and hopes, showing us what it means to belong and to endure in contexts of social exclusion. Ways of Belonging reveals the opacities and failures of a system that excludes children from education and puts their lives in invisibility mode.

FRANCESCA MELONI is an assistant professor in social justice at King’s College London.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies
Rutgers University Press • Anthropology SS24
On the Turtle’s Back
Stories the Lenape Told Their Grandchildren

CAMILLA TOWNSEND AND NICKY KAY MICHAEL

“On the Turtle’s Back offers an engaging and previously unpublished collection of Lenape/Delaware stories narrated in the early twentieth century. The scholarship is strong, and the research is impressive; there is no comparable volume in the field.”
—Jean R. Soderlund, author of Lenapes and Colonists in West New Jersey

The Lenape tribe, also known as the Delaware Nation, lived for centuries on the land that English colonists later called New Jersey. But once America gained its independence, they were forced to move further west: to Indiana, then Missouri, and finally to the territory that became Oklahoma. These reluctant migrants were not able to carry much from their ancestral homeland, but they managed to preserve the myths and fables that had been passed down for generations.

On the Turtle’s Back is the first collection of Lenape folklore, originally compiled by anthropologist M. R. Harrington over a century ago but never published until now. In it, the Delaware share their cherished tales about the world’s creation, epic heroes, and ordinary human foibles. It features stories told to Harrington by two Lenape couples, Julius and Minnie Fouts and Charles and Susan Elkhair, who sought to officially record their legends before their language and cultural traditions died out. More recent interviews with Lenape elders are also included, as their reflections on hearing these stories as children speak to the status of the tribe and its culture today. Together, they welcome you into their rich and wonderous imaginative world.

CAMILLA TOWNSEND is Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers University. She has published widely on Indigenous history and language in the Americas. Her books include Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma (2004) and, most recently, Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs (2021), which won the 2020 Cundill Prize in History.

NICKY KAY MICHAEL is a member of the Delaware tribe who earned her BA in American studies from Stanford and PhD in history from the University of Oklahoma. She is currently the interim president of Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where she is also the executive director of Indigenous studies and curriculum. She is serving a seven-year term on the Delaware tribal council.

Ceres: Rutgers Studies in History

Folk Tales • Indigenous Studies

“With On the Turtle’s Back, Camilla Townsend and Nicky Kay Michael offer a stunning edition of Lenape stories that have been told through centuries of cultural practice. They outline key historical struggles in Lenape history to contextualize the meaningfulness of the survival of those stories. They draw together creation, big house, learning, and other stories. ‘Told [to] their grandchildren’ gestures to a past in which Lenape cared for their stories and a future in which those stories are still meaningful. It is the book I have yearned for as a Lenape person and scholar.”
—Joanne Barker (Lenape [Delaware Tribe of Indians]), author of Red Scare: The Empire’s Indigenous Terrorist and Native Acts: Law, Recognition, and Cultural Authenticity
Between Care and Criminality
Marriage, Citizenship, and Family in Australian Social Welfare
HELENA ZEWERI

*Between Care and Criminality* examines social welfare’s encounter with migration and marriage in a period of intensified border control in Melbourne, Australia. It offers an in-depth ethnographic account of the effort to prevent forced marriage in the aftermath of a 2013 law that criminalized the practice. Disproportionately targeted toward Muslim migrant communities, prevention efforts were tasked with making the family relations and marital practices of migrants objects of policy knowledge in the name of care and community empowerment. Through tracing the everyday ways that direct service providers, police, and advocates learned to identify imminent marriages and at-risk individuals, this book reveals how the domain of social welfare becomes the new frontier where the settler colonial state judges good citizenship. In doing so, it invites social welfare to reflect on how migrant conceptions of familial care, personhood, and mutual obligation become structured by the violence of displacement, borders, and conditional citizenship.

HELENA ZEWERI is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of British Columbia–Vancouver and affiliate faculty with the UBC Centre for Migration Studies.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Self-Alteration
How People Change Themselves across Cultures
EDITED BY JEAN-PAUL BALDACCHINO AND CHRISTOPHER HOUSTON

Many of us feel a pressing desire to be different—to be other than who we are. Self-conscious, we anxiously perceive our shortcomings or insufficiencies, wondering why we are how we are and whether we might be different. Often, we wish to alter ourselves, to change our relationships, and to transform the person we are in those relationships. Not only a philosophical question about how other people change, self-alteration is also a practical care—can I change, and how? *Self-Alteration: How People Change Themselves across Cultures* explores and analyzes these apparently universal hopes and their related existential dilemmas. The essays here come at the subject of the self and its becoming through case studies of modes of transformation of the self. By focusing on ways we are allowed to change ourselves, including through religious and spiritual traditions and innovations, embodied participation in therapeutic programs like psychoanalysis and gendered care services, and political activism or relationships with animals, the authors in this volume create a model for cross-cultural or global analysis of social-self change.

JEAN-PAUL BALDACCHINO is a professor of anthropology at the University of Malta in Msida, Malta. He is the coeditor, with Jon Mitchell, of *Morality, Crisis and Capitalism: Anthropology for Troubled Times*.

CHRISTOPHER HOUSTON is a professor of anthropology at Macquarie University in New South Wales, Australia. He is the author of *Theocracy, Secularism, and Islam in Turkey: Anthropocratic Republic and Istanbul, City of the Fearless: Urban Activism, Coup d’État and Memory in Turkey*. 
Islamic Divorce in the Twenty-First Century
A Global Perspective
EDITED BY ERIN E. STILES AND AYANG UTRIZA YAKIN

“Islamic Divorce in the 21st Century is a wonderful book in which we travel geographically and intellectually. Its importance draws on the variety of national experiences it documents in a truly comparative perspective, as well as on the scholarship of both coeditors and contributors. It is a compulsory read for everybody interested in understanding how Islam is a global phenomenon with a huge array of local declensions.”
—Baudouin Dupret, author of Positive Law from the Muslim World: Jurisprudence, History, Practices

“Islamic Divorce in the 21st Century provides rich empirical data and sophisticated theoretical perspectives on the gendered complexities of kinship and marriage, divorce, inequality, and Islamic law and normativity in nine nations in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. This engagingly written and compelling volume will be welcomed by scholars in various fields and has great potential for use in both undergraduate and graduate courses.”
—Michael G. Peletz, author of Sharia Transformations: Cultural Politics and the Rebranding of an Islamic Judiciary

ERIN E. STILES is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno.

AYANG UTRIZA YAKIN is a research associate at the Chair of Law and Religion at the Religions, Spiritualities, Cultures, Societies (RSCS) Institute at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Opting Out
Women Messing with Marriage around the World
EDITED BY JOANNA DAVIDSON AND DINAH HANNAFORD

Women around the world are opting out of marriage. Through nuanced ethnographic accounts of the ways that women are moving the needle on marital norms and practices, Opting Out reveals the conditions that make this widespread phenomenon possible in places where marriage has long been obligatory. Each chapter invites readers into the lives of particular women and the changing circumstances in which these lives unfold - sometimes painfully, sometimes humorously, and always unexpectedly. Taken together, the essays in this volume prompt the following questions: Why is marriage so consistently disappointing for women? When the rewards of economic stability and the social status that marriage confers are troubled, does marriage offer women anything compelling at all? Across diverse geographic contexts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, this book offers sensitive and powerful portrayals of women as they escape or reshape marriage into a more rewarding arrangement.

JOANNA DAVIDSON is an associate professor of anthropology at Boston University. She is the author of Sacred Rice: An Ethnography of Identity, Environment, and Development in Rural West Africa.

DINAH HANNAFORD is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Houston. She is the author of Marriage Without Borders: Transnational Spouses in Neoliberal Senegal.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts
Global Child
Children and Families Affected by War, Displacement, and Migration
EDITED BY MYRIAM DENOV, CLAUDIA MITCHELL, AND MARJORIE RABIAU

Armed conflicts continue to wreak havoc on children and families around the world with profound effects. In 2017, 420 million children—nearly one in five—were living in conflict-affected areas, an increase in 30 million from the previous year. The recent surge in war-induced migration, referred to as a “global refugee crisis,” has made migration a highly politicized issue, with refugee populations and host countries facing unique challenges. We know from research related to asylum seeking families that it is vital to think about children and families in relation to what it means to stay together, what it means for parents to be separated from their children, and the kinds of everyday tensions that emerge from living in dangerous, insecure, and precarious circumstances. In Global Child, the authors highlight the unique features of participatory, arts-based, and socio-ecological approaches to studying war-affected children and families, demonstrating the collective strength as well as the limitations and ethical implications of such research.

MYRIAM DENOV is a full professor and holds the Canada Research Chair in Children, Families, and Armed Conflict at McGill University in Montreal.

CLAUDIA MITCHELL is a Distinguished James McGill Professor in the faculty of education at McGill University.

MARJORIE RABIAU is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at McGill University.

Genocide, Political Violence, Human Rights
**Powerful Devices**

Prayer and the Political Praxis of Spiritual Warfare  
ABIMBOLA A. ADELAKUN

*Powerful Devices* studies spiritual warfare performances as an apparatus for disestablishing structures of power and knowledge, and establishing righteousness in their stead. Drawing on performance studies’ emphasis on radicality and breaking of social norms as devices of social transformation, the book demonstrates how Christian groups with dominant cultural power but who perceive themselves as embattled wield the ideas of performance activism. Combining religious studies with ethnography, *Powerful Devices* explores Nigerian Pentecostals and US Evangelicals’ praxis of transnational spiritual warfare. By closely studying spiritual warfare prayers as a “device,” *Powerful Devices* shows how the rituals of prayer enable an apprehension of time, paradigms of self-enhancement, and the subversion of politics and authority. A critical intervention, *Powerful Devices* explores charismatic Christianity’s relationship to science and secular authority, technology and temporality, neoliberalism, and reactionary ideology.

ABIMBOLA A. ADELAKUN is an assistant professor in the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

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**Global Visions of Violence**

Agency and Persecution in World Christianity  
JASON BRUNER AND DAVID KIRKPATRICK

In *Global Visions of Violence*, the editors and contributors argue that violence creates a lens, bridge, and method for interdisciplinary collaboration that examines Christianity worldwide in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. By analyzing the myriad ways violence, persecution, and suffering impact Christians and the imagination of Christian identity globally, this interdisciplinary volume integrates the perspectives of ethicists, historians, anthropologists, and ethnographers to generate new conversations. Taken together, the chapters in this book challenge scholarship on Christian growth that has not accounted for violence while analyzing persecution narratives that can wield data toward partisan ends. This allows *Global Visions of Violence* to push urgent conversations forward, giving voice to projects that illuminate wide and often hidden landscapes that have been shaped by global visions of violence, and seeking solutions that end violence and turn toward the pursuit of justice, peace, and human rights among suffering Christians.

JASON BRUNER is an associate professor of religious studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University in Tempe.

DAVID C. KIRKPATRICK is an assistant professor of religion in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
In the Shadow of Tungurahua
Disaster Politics in Highland Ecuador
A.J. FAAS

“In the Shadow of Tungurahua is a powerful reminder of ethnography’s analytical and methodological value in the anthropological study of disasters. Weaving theoretical reflections with ethnographic storytelling, Faas examines the ways people work tirelessly to make meaningful lives in catastrophe’s aftermath and how disaster affected communities are often haunted by colonial and post-colonial political ecological processes that engender disasters.”
—Roberto E. Barrios, author of Governing Affect: Neoliberalism and Disaster Reconstruction

“This book demonstrates how deeply an anthropological eye can probe when guided by solid theory, methodology, and long and careful fieldwork. A.J. Faas makes a transformative contribution to the study of disasters and politics in Ecuador, Latin America, and the Global South. It’s a delightful read, rich in ethnographic detail and engaging prose, and a testament to the value of anthropological approaches to the study of disaster.”
—Virginia García-Acosta, editor of The Anthropology of Disasters in Latin America: State of the Art

In the Shadow of Tungurahua relates the stories of the people of Penipe, Ecuador living in and between several villages around the volcano Tungurahua and two resettlement communities built for people displaced by government operations following volcanic eruptions in 1999 and 2006. The disasters unfolding around Tungurahua at the turn of the 21st century also provide lessons in the humanitarian politics of disaster—questions of deservingness, reproducing inequality, and the reproduction of bare life.

A.J. FAAS is an associate professor of anthropology at San José State University.

A World of Many
Ontology and Child Development among the Maya of Southern Mexico
NORBERT ROSS

A World of Many explores the world-making efforts of Tzotzil Maya children from two different localities within the municipality of Chenalhó, Chiapas. The research demonstrates children’s agency in creating their worlds, while also investigating the role played by the surrounding social and physical environment. Different experiences with schooling, parenting, goals and values, but also with climate change, water scarcity, as well as racism and settler colonialism form part of the reason children create their emerging worlds. These worlds are not make believe or anything less than the ontological products of their parents. Instead, Norbert Ross argues that by creating different worlds, the children ultimately fashion themselves into different human beings - quite literally being different in the world. A World of Many combines experimental research from the cognitive sciences with critical theory, exploring children’s agency in devising their own ontologies. Rather than treating children as somewhat incomplete humans, it understands children as tinkerers and thinkers, makers of their worlds amidst complex relations. It regards being as a constant ontological production, where life and living constitutes activism.

NORBERT ROSS is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Theater at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of Culture and Cognition: Implications for Theory and Method and the co-author (with Douglas L. Medin and Douglas G. Cox) of Culture and Resource Conflict: Why Meanings Matter.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies
Social Exchange
Barter as Economic and Cultural Activism in Medellín, Colombia
BRIAN J. BURKE

“Brian Burke has produced a rich, wonderfully evocative and thickly described portrayal of the real economy through which millions of us make livelihoods and struggle, imperfectly, for something better. Latin America has often been inspirational to those of us in the neoliberalized North, and here you will find inspiration from a close observation of early experiments in developing economies where what matters is living well rather than endless growth.”
—Peter North, author of Money and Liberation: The Micropolitics of Alternative Currency Movements

“With theoretical depth and accessible writing, Burke brings lucid ethnographic and historical context to an analysis of the possibilities and constraints on diverse economic experimentation, both as a mode of survival and of transformation in Medellín. Burke joins this ethnographic realism with a stance towards possibility; he details how barter networks interrupt capitalist logics and desires, rework space and place, shift social relations, and most importantly cultivate subjectivities at the level of everyday practice and engagement. This is an important book for anyone interested in understanding and advancing post-capitalist imaginings and practices.”
—Boone Shear, co-editor of Learning Under Neoliberalism: Ethnographies of Governance in Higher Education

BRIAN J. BURKE is an associate professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He is the coeditor of Cooperatives, Grassroots Development, and Social Change.

The “Puerto Rican Problem” in Postwar New York City
EDGARDO MELÉNDEZ

“Meticulously researched and politically savvy, Edgardo Meléndez illuminates how the mainstream U.S. press, government agencies, academia, and public opinion mistreated the Puerto Rican exodus after 1945. A highly readable, insightful, and thought-provoking analysis.”
—Jorge Duany, author of Puerto Rico: What Everyone Needs to Know

“The first in-depth study of the origins, ingrained biases, and stereotypes of the ‘Puerto Rican problem’ discourses propagated in most of the early post-World War II mass migration research about the Puerto Rican community. An outstanding and indispensable addition to Puerto Rican migration studies.”
—Edna Acosta-Belén, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University at Albany, SUNY

The “Puerto Rican Problem” in Postwar New York City presents the first comprehensive examination of the emergence, evolution, and consequences of the “Puerto Rican problem” campaign and narrative in New York City from 1945 to 1960. This notion originated in an intense public campaign that arose in reaction to the entry of Puerto Rican migrants to the city after 1945. The “problem” narrative influenced their incorporation in New York City and other regions of the United States where they settled. The anti-Puerto Rican campaign led to the formulation of public policies by the governments of Puerto Rico and New York City seeking to ease their incorporation in the city.

EDGARDO MELÉNDEZ is a retired professor from the department of political science at the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras and the department of Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino studies at Hunter College.

Latinidad: Transnational Cultures in the United States
Transnational Cultural Flow from Home
Korean Community in Greater New York
PYONG GAP MIN

“Full of rich and fascinating material on the Korean community in the New York area, this valuable book shows that, at the same time as Korean immigrants have become increasingly incorporated into American society, they also seek to preserve and promote a wide range of homeland cultural practices and traditions.”
—Nancy Foner, author of One Quarter of the Nation: Immigration and the Transformation of America

“In this innovative and rigorous investigation of Koreans’ engagement with transnational cultural linkages to their homeland, Pyong Gap Min finds that migrants’ participation in activities that promote Korean ethnic culture facilitates both their assimilation to host country activities and their involvement in transnational cultural linkages embedded in the country of origin. This analysis significantly advances our understanding of Korean immigrants’ adaptation to the US while providing a compelling challenge to classical theories of immigrant assimilation more generally.”
—Steven J. Gold, author of The Israeli Diaspora

Transnational Cultural Flow from Home examines New York Korean immigrants’ collective efforts to preserve their cultural traditions and cultural practices and their efforts to transmit and promote them to New Yorkers by focusing on the Korean cultural elements such as language, foods, cultural festivals, and traditional and contemporary performing arts.

PYONG GAP MIN is a distinguished professor of sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, as well as the director of the Research Center for Korean Community.

Families We Need
Disability, Abandonment, and Foster Care’s Resistance in Contemporary China
ERIN RAFFETY

“Families We Need is a brilliant and warmly empathic book. Written with grace and lucidity, it elevates readers’ understanding of the need for family, and of how neediness can be a source of strength, and even abundance.”
—Kathie Carpenter, Author of Life in a Cambodian Orphanage

Set in the remote, mountainous Guangxi Autonomous Region and based on ethnographic fieldwork, Families We Need traces the movement of three Chinese foster children, Dengrong, Pei Pei, and Meili, from the state orphanage into the humble, foster homes of Auntie Li, Auntie Ma, and Auntie Huang. Traversing the geography of Guangxi, from the modern capital Nanning where Pei Pei and Meili reside, to the small farming village several hours away where Dengrong is placed, this ethnography details the hardships of social abandonment for disabled children and disenfranchised, older women in China, while also analyzing the state’s efforts to cope with such marginal populations and incorporate them into China’s modern future. The book argues that Chinese foster families perform necessary, invisible service to the Chinese state and intercountry adoption, yet the bonds they form also resist such forces, exposing the inequalities, privilege, and ableism at the heart of global family making.

ERIN RAFFETY is a research fellow at the Center for Theological Inquiry, an empirical research consultant at Princeton Theological Seminary, and an associate research scholar at Princeton Seminary’s Institute for Youth Ministry. Raffety researches and writes on disability, congregational ministry, and church leadership and is an advocate for disabled people.
The Prism of Human Rights
Seeking Justice amid Gender Violence in Rural Ecuador

KARIN FRIEDERIC

Gender violence has been at the forefront of women’s human rights struggles for decades, shaping political movements and NGO and government programs related to women’s empowerment, community development, and public health. Drawing on over twenty years of research and activism in rural Ecuador, The Prism of Human Rights provides a remarkably intimate view of what these rights-based programs actually achieve over the long term. Friederic brings us into the lives of women, men, and children who find themselves entangled in intimate partner violence, structural violence, political economic change, and a global cultural project in which “rights” are associated with modernity, development, and democratic states. She details the multiple forms of violence that rural women experience; shows the diverse ways they make sense of, endure, and combat this violence; and helps us understand how people are grappling with new ideas of gender, rights, and even of violence itself. Ultimately, Friederic demonstrates that rights-based interventions provide important openings for women seeking a life free of violence, but they also unwittingly expose “liberated” women to more extreme dynamics of structural violence. Thus, these interventions often reduce women’s room to maneuver and encourage communities to hide violence in order to appear “modern” and “developed.” This analysis of human rights in practice is essential for anyone seeking to promote justice in a culturally responsible manner, and for anyone who hopes to understand how the globalization of rights, legal institutions, and moral visions is transforming distant locales.

KARIN FRIEDERIC is an assistant professor in the department of anthropology at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

Inside the Circle
Queer Culture and Activism in Northwest China

CASEY JAMES MILLER

Drawing on over a decade of ethnographic fieldwork in northwest China, Casey James Miller offers a novel, compelling, and intimately personal perspective on Chinese queer culture and activism. In Inside the Circle: Queer Culture and Activism in Northwest China, Miller tells the stories of two courageous and dedicated groups of queer activists in the city of Xi’an: a grassroots gay men’s HIV/AIDS organization called Tong’ai and a lesbian women’s group named UNITE. Taking inspiration from “the circle,” a term used to imagine local, national, and global queer communities, Miller shows how everyday people in northwest China are taking part in queer culture and activism while also striving to lead traditionally moral lives in a rapidly changing society. The queer stories in this book broaden our understandings of gender and sexuality in contemporary China and show how taking global queer diversity seriously requires us to de-center Western cultural values, historical experiences, and theoretical perspectives.

CASEY JAMES MILLER is an assistant professor of anthropology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.
Village Ties
Women, NGOs, and Informal Institutions in Rural Bangladesh

NAYMA QAYUM

"Drawing on sustained and in-depth engagement with Polli Somaj, a program associated with the NGO BRAC, Qayum argues among other things that NGOs can play a critical role in development: in linking marginalized citizens with state services and societal resources, and in shifting cultural practices through offering alternative or competing ‘logics of appropriateness.’ Written in carefully crafted, evocative prose, Village Ties is a welcome addition to the field."
—Dina M. Siddiqi, Clinical Associate Professor, New York University

"Village Ties does something new and valuable by telling a more complicated story about NGOs and rural Bangladeshi women. Nayma Qayum shows how these activists tackle the informal institutions that keep rural women poor and powerless, and in so doing, help build the necessary foundations for women’s power. Scholars of civil society and NGOs, of Bangladesh’s development, and of women’s empowerment will find this fascinating, full of stories and substantive arguments about the deep roots of social change."
—Naomi Hossain, co-editor of The Politics of Education in Developing Countries: From Schooling to Learning

Across the global South, poor women’s lives are embedded in their social relationships and governed not just by formal institutions—rules that exist on paper—but by informal norms and practices. Village Ties takes the reader to Bangladesh, a country that has risen from the ashes of war, natural disaster, and decades of resource drain to become a development miracle. The book argues that grassroots women’s mobilization programs can empower women to challenge informal institutions when such programs are anti-oppression, deliberative, and embedded in their communities. Qayum dives into the work of Polli Shomaj (PS), a program of the development organization BRAC to show how the women of PS negotiate with state and society to alter the rules of the game, changing how poor people access resources including safety nets, the law, and governing spaces. These women create a complex and rapidly transforming world where multiple overlapping institutions exist—formal and informal, old and new, desirable and undesirable. In actively challenging power structures around them, these women defy stereotypes of poor Muslim women as backward, subservient, oppressed, and in need of saving.

NAYMA QAYUM is an associate professor of Asian studies and global and international studies at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York.
The Divine Institution
White Evangelicalism’s Politics of the Family

SOPHIE BJORK-JAMES

“The Divine Institution provides an account of how a theology of the family came to dominate a white evangelical tradition in the post-civil rights movement United States, providing a theological corollary to Religious Right politics. This tradition inherently enforces racial inequality in that it draws moral, religious, and political attention away from problems of racial and economic structural oppression, explaining all social problems as a failure of the individual to achieve the strong gender and sexual identities that ground the nuclear family. The consequences of this theology are both personal suffering for individuals who cannot measure up to prescribed gender and sexual roles, and political support for conservative government policies. Exposure to experiences that undermine the idea that an emphasis on the family is the solution to all social problems is causing a younger generation of white evangelicals to shift away from this narrow theological emphasis and toward a more social justice-oriented theology. The material and political effects of this shift remain to be seen.

SOPHIE BJORK-JAMES is an assistant professor in the anthropology department at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She is the co-editor of Beyond Populism: Angry Politics and the Twilight of Neoliberalism.
Losing Culture
Nostalgia, Heritage, and Our Accelerated Times

DAVID BERLINER

TRANSLATED BY DOMINIC HORSFALL

“Losing Culture is about nostalgia, combining self-reflection and rich ethnographic examples from Africa and Asia with a critical view of the disciplinary anxieties of anthropology. Nostalgia, in this wonderful book, is treated as one more thing that is, in our tormented world, no longer what it used to be.”
—Arjun Appadurai, author of The Future as Cultural Fact: Essays on the Global Condition

“David Berliner stands at the crossroads, observing the natives, the philosophers, the heritage bureaucrats, the tourists, and other anthropologists as well, from all nationalities, when they come to look at—or even live—the past in the present. But what does he become himself? A cultural chameleon? When you have read Losing Culture, perhaps your anthropology will never be the same again.”
—Ulf Hannerz, author of Writing Future Worlds: An Anthropologist Explores Global Scenarios

“By linking the chameleon figure of the anthropologist with the theme of nostalgia, Berliner demonstrates anthropologists’ important role in disabusing the general public of the illusion that “cultures” can be rebuilt in their original form. This subtle departure from conventional studies of heritage places a new and desirable emphasis on the ethical choices facing anthropologists when confronted with the politics of contested pasts. Of particular value is the unusual but well-grounded comparative perspective that Berliner draws from his findings in West Africa and Southeast Asia.”
—Michael Herzfeld, author of Siege of the Spirits: Community and Polity in Bangkok

We’re losing our culture… our heritage… our traditions… everything is being swept away.

Losing Culture provides a nuanced analysis addressing why intergenerational cultural transmission is vital to humans, yet also considering how efforts to preserve disappearing cultures are sometimes misguided or even reactionary. Blending anthropological theory with vivid case studies, this book teaches us how to appreciate the multitudes of different ways we might understand loss, memory, transmission, and heritage.

DAVID BERLINER is a professor of anthropology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. Between 2011 and 2015, he was co-editor of Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale, the journal of the European Association of Social Anthropologists.

DOMINIC HORSFALL is a translator, editor and writer with a special focus on anthropology. He lives and works in London.
Anthropological Lives
An Introduction to the Profession of Anthropology

VIRGINIA R. DOMINGUEZ AND BRIGITTINE M. FRENCH

“This important collection of conversations with anthropologists from all parts of the discipline provides a frank and revealing picture of what it really means to pursue an anthropological life. It illustrates not just what Dominguez and French call the ‘spaciousness of the discipline’, but also what connects us across all the radically different applications of anthropology. *Anthropological Lives* should be required reading for students in the field, and for those us already established in our careers, it feels like an affirmation.”
—Adam Kaul, co-editor of *Leisure and Death: An Anthropological Tour of Risk, Death, and Dying*

“Lively, thought-provoking, and grounded in the lives and practices of twenty contemporary anthropologists, *Anthropological Lives* provides a rich and textured account of the field today. Dominguez and French have shaped an engaging and subtle account, one charting multiple sensibilities, orientations, and intellectual trajectories with insight and panache. A distinctive and stimulating work, one that conveys a remarkable feeling for the profession and its possibilities.”
—Donald Brenneis, co-editor of *The Matrix of Language*

*Anthropological Lives* introduces readers to what it is like to be a professional anthropologist. It focuses on the work anthropologists do, the passions they have, the way that being an anthropologist affects the kind of life they lead. The book draws heavily on the experiences of twenty anthropologists interviewed by Virginia R. Dominguez and Brigittine M. French, as well as on the experiences of the two coauthors. Many different kinds of anthropologists are represented, and the book makes a point of discussing their commonalities as well as their differences. Some of the anthropologists included work in the academy, some work outside the academy, and some work in institutions like museums. Included are cultural anthropologists, linguistic anthropologists, medical anthropologists, biological anthropologists, practicing anthropologists, and anthropological archaeologists. A fascinating look behind the curtain, the stories in *Anthropological Lives* will inform anyone who has ever wondered what you do with a degree in anthropology.

VIRGINIA R. DOMINGUEZ is Gutgsell Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she also is co-founder and consulting director of the International Forum for U.S. Studies.

BRIGITTINE M. FRENCH is professor of anthropology at Grinnell College in Iowa.
Beyond Repair?
Mayan Women’s Protagonism in the Aftermath of Genocidal Harm
ALISON CROSBY AND M. BRINTON LYKES

“Extremely persuasive and admirably clear, Beyond Repair? emphasizes the need to analyze gender violence through the historical lens of colonized racial violence and underlines the centrality of the justice constructions and engagements of Mayan women.”
—Rachel Sieder, editor of Demanding Justice and Security in Latin America: Indigenous Women and Legal Pluralities in Latin America

“This deeply researched book follows Mayan women as they search for justice in the aftermath of sexual violence. Using feminist participatory research methods, the authors attend to both suffering and protagonism.”
— Kimberly Theidon, author of Intimate Enemies: Violence and Reconciliation in Peru

Beyond Repair? explores Mayan women’s agency in the search for redress for harm suffered during the genocidal violence perpetrated by the Guatemalan state in the early 1980s at the height of the thirty-six-year armed conflict. The book draws on research conducted with fifty-four Q’eqchi’, Kaqchikel, Chuj, and Mam women who are seeking truth, justice, and reparation for the violence they experienced during the war, and the women's rights activists, lawyers, psychologists, Mayan rights activists, and researchers who have accompanied them as intermediaries for over a decade. Alison Crosby and M. Brinton Lykes argue that at different moments Mayan women have been actively engaged as protagonists in constructivist and discursive performances through which they have narrated new, mobile meanings of “Mayan woman.”

ALISON CROSBY is an associate professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and the director of the Centre for Feminist Research at York University, Toronto, Canada.

M. BRINTON LYKES is a professor of community-cultural psychology and co-director of the Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College in Massachusetts. She is the author or editor of several books, including The New Deportations Delirium: Interdisciplinary Responses.

Genocide, Political Violence, Human Rights
Global Dynamics of Shi’a Marriages
Religion, Gender, and Belonging
EDITED BY YAFA SHANNEIK AND ANNELIES MOORS

“In this pioneering book, Shanneik and Moors have deftly amended the dearth of scholarly books on Shi’i cultures and traditions. The ethnographically diverse chapters brought together in this collected volume on the Global Dynamics of Shi’a Marriages engage with local practices as they are embedded within the wider contexts of migration, diaspora and transnationalism. It is a very timely and accessible book, and I highly recommend it.”
—Shahla Haeri, author of The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Authority, Gender

“Global Dynamics of Shi’a Marriages is a fascinating addition to the emerging literature on marriage and sexuality in the Muslim world. Young people engage in ‘dating cultures’ facilitated by mobile phones, young women are reluctant to live with in-laws, and there is a growing desire for love-based marriages. While the authority of the older generation has been diminished, the move towards more companionate marriages in every Shi’a community still involves family negotiations over choice of partner, marital gifts, and wedding expenses.”
—Janet Afary, series co-editor, Sex, Marriage, and Family in the Middle East

YAFA SHANNEIK is a lecturer in Islamic studies at the University of Birmingham in the UK.
ANNELIES MOORS is an anthropologist and professor emerita at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

The Politics of International Marriage in Japan

BY VIKTORIYA KIM, NELIA G. BALGOA AND BEVERLEY ANNE YAMAMOTO

“A welcome addition to the growing body of scholarship focused on gender and marriage migration in Japan. Shedding light on various aspects of cross-border relationships, cross-cultural parenting and family formation, The Politics of International Marriage in Japan vibrantly illuminates individual engagement in the dynamics and differences of gender, capital, culture, and nation that are embedded in marriage and migration.”
—Kumiko Nemoto, author of Too Few Women at the Top: The Persistence of Inequality in Japan

Focusing on three cultural/ethnic groups in terms of empirical data—women from the former Soviet Union countries, the Philippines, and Western countries—this book highlights the complex interplay between national, cultural, gender, and ethnicity boundary maintenance that constructs international marriages in Japan at multiple levels, providing a comprehensive account of international marriage in the contemporary Japanese context.

VIKTORIYA KIM is an associate professor in the Human Sciences International Undergraduate Degree Program, Osaka University, Japan.
NELIA G. BALGOA is a professor in the Department of English and Culture and Arts Studies Center of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, Mindanao, Philippines.
BEVERLEY YAMAMOTO is a professor of Transformative Education, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University, Japan.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Rutgers University Press • Anthropology SS24
Transnational Marriage and Partner Migration
Constellations of Security, Citizenship, and Rights
EDITED BY ANNE-MARIE D’AOUST

“Seldom have I been so excited by an edited collection! This stimulating volume offers diverse disciplinary and geographical approaches to marriage and partner migration—increasingly recognized as a crucial aspect of international mobility. Troubling the binaries which often dog the subject—legal vs emotional, love vs interest, state vs intimacy and migrant vs citizen—Transnational Marriage and Partner Migration offers both an exciting and wide-ranging introduction for newcomers to this fascinating field, and fresh perspectives for those of us already hooked.”
—Katharine Charsley, author of Transnational Pakistani Connections: Marrying ‘Back Home’

“This multidisciplinary gem explores the emotional intimacies and legal intricacies of citizenship in today’s fraught context of ‘family’ migration politics. Doing so reveals the structural centrality of state-sanctioned marriage for reproducing—through eurocentric paradigms of love, citizenship and resource distribution—crises of sexual, racial and economic inequality. Not what most expect, and well worth a read.”
—V. Spike Peterson, co-author of Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium

ANNE-MARIE D’AOUST is an associate professor in political science at the Université du Québec à Montréal in Canada. She is the editor of Affective Economies, Neoliberalism, and Governmentality.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Intimate Connections
Love and Marriage in Pakistan’s High Mountains
ANNA-MARIA WALTER

Intimate Connections dissects ideas, feelings, and practices around love, marriage, and respectability in the remote high mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan in northern Pakistan. It offers insightful perspectives from the emotional lives of Shia women and their active engagement with their husbands. These gender relations are shaped by countless factors, including embodied values of modesty and honor, vernacular fairy tales and Bollywood movies, Islamic revivalism and development initiatives. In particular, the advent of media and communication technologies has left a mark on (pre)marital relations in both South Asia and the wider Muslim world. Juxtaposing different understandings of ‘love’ reveals rich and manifold worlds of courtship, elopements, family dynamics, and more or less affectionate matches that are nowadays often initiated through SMS. Deep ethnographic accounts trace the relationships between young couples to show how Muslim women in a globalized world dynamically frame and negotiate circumstances in their lives.

ANNA-MARIA WALTER is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oulu in Finland.

Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts
Changes in Care
Aging, Migration, and Social Class in West Africa

CATI COE

“Combining an innovative set of conceptual tools with meticulous presentation of ethnographic and historical research in both rural and urban contexts, this study makes a compelling contribution to understanding the dynamics of changing elder-care practices in Ghana. Topics covered include the intertwining of kin and non-kin roles in the work of care-giving and the uneasy relations between care-givers and domestic servants in households.”

—Andrew Strathern and Pamela J. Stewart (Strathern), co-authors of Language and Culture in Dialogue

“Cati Coe understands the language of change, care and aging in Africa as well as the diversity of change in the context of the broader globalized world. She critically but sensitively explores these complexities without falling into tired binaries. Change in Africa and its implications for care are approached as complex, quiet and sporadic processes and not simplistically linear as still often proposed by exponents of modernization theory.”

—Jaco Hoffman, co-editor of Intergenerational Contact Zones: Place-based Strategies for Promoting Social Inclusion and Belonging

Changes in Care examines aging in Ghana as a way of understanding the unevenness of social change more widely. There is a short film that accompanies the book, “Making Happiness: Older People Organize Themselves” (2020), an 11-minute film by Cati Coe. Available at: https://doi.org/doi:10.7282/t3-thke-hp15

CATI COE is a professor of anthropology at Rutgers University. She is the co-editor of Transnational Aging and Reconfigurations of Kin-Work (Rutgers University Press).

Global Perspectives on Aging

Aging in a Changing World
Older New Zealanders and Contemporary Multiculturalism

MOLLY GEORGE

“Sure to become a classic of urban ethnography. A powerful and much needed account of the way in which older people respond to and negotiate change within urban communities. The research challenges views which present older people as ‘victims’ of global change, providing a highly nuanced description of both the perceived challenges of migration, but also the positive ways in which it is incorporated into new ways of adapting to social change.”

—Christopher Phillipson, co-editor of Precarity and Ageing: Understanding Risk and Insecurity in Later Life

“Molly George’s book beautifully upends common assumptions about the widespread racism amongst elder white Americans, Brits, and New Zealanders, offering a much more nuanced portrayal of how ethnicity and migration are viewed by older generations. Examining everyday interactions between long-term residents and newcomers, Aging in a Changing World challenges stereotypical views of what it means to ‘age in place’ when places, and the people who occupy them, are in fact ever-changing. The result is a thought-provoking examination of multiculturalism as lived experience for the elderly.”

—Susanna Trnka, author of Traversing: Embodied Lifeworlds in the Czech Republic

MOLLY GEORGE is a research fellow at the Centre for Pacific Health and the Department of General Practice and Rural Health at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Global Perspectives on Aging
Disputing Discipline
Child Protection, Punishment, and Piety in Zanzibar Schools
FRANZISKA FAY

“Disputing Discipline insightfully examines the tensions produced between global, decontextualized child protection policies and vernacular practices of care including Muslim children’s relational achievement of social and moral personhood in Zanzibar. By arguing for the need to decolonize the child protection apparatus in Zanzibar, it makes an important addition to existing studies that interrogate the hegemony of universal certitudes, like children’s rights, not to debunk these, but to better fulfill their assurances.”
—Sarada Balagopalan, author of Inhabiting ‘Childhood’: Children, Labour and Schooling in Postcolonial India

“Disputing Discipline is an important intervention in universalist children’s rights discourse. Fay’s nuanced and sensitive treatment of a highly polemic topic demonstrates what happens when development initiatives fail to reckon with religious and cultural specificities. This book clearly and compellingly articulates the need to decolonize international child protection efforts, if they hope to succeed. Scholars and practitioners alike take heed.”
—Kristen Cheney, author of Crying for Our Elders: African Orphanhood in the Age of HIV and AIDS

FRANZISKA FAY is a postdoctoral researcher in anthropology at the Research Centre ‘Normative Orders’ at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies

Embracing Age
How Catholic Nuns Became Models of Aging Well
ANNA I. CORWIN

Embracing Age: How Catholic Nuns Became Models of Aging Well examines a community of individuals whose aging trajectories contrast mainstream American experiences. In mainstream American society, aging is presented as a “problem,” a state to be avoided as long as possible, a state that threatens one’s ability to maintain independence, autonomy and control over one’s surroundings. Aging “well” (or avoiding aging) has become a twenty-first century American preoccupation. Embracing Age provides a window into the everyday lives of American Catholic nuns who experience longevity and remarkable health and well-being at the end of life. Catholic nuns aren’t only healthier in older age, they are healthier because they practice a culture of acceptance and grace around aging. Embracing Age demonstrates how aging in the convent becomes understood by the nuns to be a natural part of the life course, not one to be feared or avoided. Anna I. Corwin shows readers how Catholic nuns create a cultural community that provides a model for how to grow old, decline, and die that is both embedded in American culture and quite distinct from other American models.

ANNA I. CORWIN is an assistant professor of anthropology at Saint Mary’s College of California in Moraga.

Global Perspectives on Aging
Becoming Gods
Medical Training in Mexican Hospitals
VANIA SMITH-OKA

“Seeking to learn how obstetric violence is routinized in Mexico, Smith-Oka reveals how societal inequalities shape trainee physicians’ education, embodyment, and even souls. Taking readers backstage in medical interns’ hospital work through rich and readable ethnography, she shows students’ ideals meeting realities of toxic hierarchy, discrimination and precarity as they become doctors. Essential reading for understanding how professionalization reproduces inequality!”
—Emily Wentzell, author of Maturing Masculinities: Aging, Chronic Illness, and Viagra in Mexico

Through rich ethnographic narrative, Becoming Gods examines how a cohort of doctors-in-training in the Mexican city of Puebla learn to become doctors. Smith-Oka draws from compelling fieldwork, ethnography, and interviews with interns, residents, and doctors that tell the story of how medical trainees learn to wield new tools, language, and technology and how their white coat, stethoscope, and newfound technical, linguistic, and sensory skills lend them an authority that they cultivate with each practice, transforming their sense of self. Becoming Gods illustrates the messy, complex, and nuanced nature of medical training, where trainees not only have to acquire a monumental number of skills but do so against a backdrop of strict hospital hierarchy and a crumbling national medical system that deeply shape who they are.

VANIA SMITH-OKA is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Medical Anthropology: Health, Inequality, and Social Justice

At Ansha’s
Life in the Spirit Mosque of a Healer in Mozambique
DARIA TRENTINI

“Through this ethnographic account of one healer in northern Mozambique, Daria Trentini evokes the contours of an entire social world. As Ansha works the borders between health and illness, tradition and modernity, good and evil—even life and death—Trentini shows how lives are defined by tensions and contradictions as well as attempts to ease them. By providing such an accessible and compelling narrative, Trentini herself works ontological borders between her readers and those she meets in Ansha’s compound.”
—Harry G. West, author of Ethnographic Sorcery

At Ansha’s takes the reader inside the spirit mosque of a female healer in Nampula, northern Mozambique. It is here that Ansha, a Makonde spirit healer, heals the resisting ailments of her patients, discloses pieces of her story of affliction and healing, and engages the world outside her mosque. We come to know Ansha’s experiences as revolutionary and migrant, her religious trajectories, family, the healers who cured her, the spirits who possessed her, and her declining health. We follow Ansha’s shifts in her life and work in the mosque as these intersect with the visible and invisible borders of Mozambique and of its fraught history. Confronting events in her life and in the mosque between 2009 and 2016, Ansha invites us to make meaning with her, as we sit in her mosque, and engage with her family, spirits, friends, patients, and world.

DARIA TRENTINI is an assistant professor of anthropology at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Medical Anthropology: Health, Inequality, and Social Justice
Making the Right Choice
Narratives of Marriage in Sri Lanka
ASHA L. ABEYASEKERA

“Asha Abeyasekera gives us exquisitely wrought portraits of three generations of women in modernizing Sri Lanka as they navigate decisions of who, when, how, and why to marry. Attending to their stories about their marriages, Abeyasekera reveals the repertoires of meaning that enable the women to produce selves that honor traditional kin obligations while embodying modern values of personal choice and self-determination.”
—Jeanne Marecek, co-author of Gender and Culture in Psychology: Theories and Practices

“With delicate prose and thoughtfulness, Abeyasekera draws us into the heart of middle-class Colombo, where personal choices on who to love reflect back on family narratives of progress and social mobility. Offering fresh perspectives on agency and responsibility, she moves between life stories across generations to unravel how, in South Asia, marriage is inexorably tied to crafting a self that is both modern and moral.”
—Ammara Maqsood, author of The New Pakistani Middle Class

ASHA L. ABEYASEKERA is a senior lecturer in the faculty of graduate studies at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Marriage, Gender and Refugee Migration
Spousal Relationships among Somali Muslims in the United Kingdom
NATASHA CARVER

“Attentively observed and provocatively argued, this book explores the dynamic inter-relationship between culture, religion, ethnicity, and gender, and how migration remakes people’s understandings of their relationships. It is not only brilliant but beautiful too, capturing the creativity in struggles to craft places in the world. Truly inspirational reading.”
—Bridget Anderson, co-editor of Citizenship and Its Others

This ethical and poetic ethnography analyses the upheavals to gender roles and marital relationships brought about by Somali refugee migration to the UK. Unmoored from the socio-cultural norms that made them men and women, being a refugee is described as making “everything” feel “different, mixed up, upside down.” Marriage, Gender and Refugee Migration details how Somali gendered identities are contested, negotiated, and (re)produced within a framework of religious and politico-national discourses, finding that the most significant catalysts for challenging and changing harmful gender practices are a combination of the welfare system and Islamic praxis. Described as “an important and urgent monograph,” this book will be a key text relevant to scholars of migration, transnational families, personal life, and gender. Written in a beautiful and accessible style, the book voices the participants with respect and compassion, and is also recommended for scholars of qualitative social research methods.

NATASHA CARVER is a lecturer in international criminology at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.
Growing Old in a New China
Transitions in Elder Care
ROSE KEIMIG

"Rose Keimig’s Growing Old in a New China is the first real ethnography of institutionalized eldercare in China, and also a fine description of old age and of eldercare between family members in China today. A first-rate account—seamlessly integrates traditional and contemporary indigenous ideas with broader theories of care. Impressive!" —Arthur Kleinman, author of The Soul of Care

Growing Old in a New China: Transitions in Elder Care is an accessible exploration of changing care arrangements in China. Combining anthropological theory, ethnographic vignettes, and cultural and social history, it sheds light on the growing movement from home-based to institutional elder care in urban China. The book examines how tensions between old and new ideas, desires, and social structures are reshaping the experience of caring and being cared for. Weaving together discussions of family ethics, care work, bioethics, aging, and quality of life, this book puts older adults at the center of the story. It explores changing relationships between elders and themselves, their family members, caregivers, society, and the state, and the attempts made within and across these relational webs to find balance and harmony. The book invites readers to ponder the deep implications of how and why we care and the ways end-of-life care arrangements complicate both living and dying for many elders.

ROSE KEIMIG is a medical anthropologist who is interested in the ways humans experience change across the life course. She works as a UX researcher.

Global Perspectives on Aging

Aging Nationally in Contemporary Poland
Memory, Kinship, and Personhood
JESSICA ROBBINS

Active aging programs that encourage older adults to practice health-promoting behaviors are proliferating worldwide. In Poland, the meanings and ideals of these programs have become caught up in the sociocultural and political-economic changes that have occurred during the lifetimes of the oldest generations—most visibly, the transition from socialism to capitalism. Yet practices of active aging resonate with older forms of activity in late life in ways that exceed these narratives of progress. Moreover, some older Poles come to live valued, meaningful lives in old age despite threats to respect and dignity posed by illness and debility. Through intimate portrayals of a wide range of experiences of aging in Poland, Jessica C. Robbins shows that everyday practices of remembering and relatedness shape how older Poles come to be seen by themselves and by others as living worthy, valued lives. In Aging Nationally in Contemporary Poland, we see how memories and understandings of the Polish nation intersect with ideals and experiences of late life to produce forms of life that are not reducible to binary categories of health or illness, independence or dependence, or socialism or capitalism.

JESSICA C. ROBBINS is an assistant professor at the Institute of Gerontology and Department of Anthropology at Wayne State University in Michigan.

Global Perspectives on Aging
Linked Lives
Elder Care, Migration, and Kinship in Sri Lanka
Michele Ruth Gamburd

"Linked Lives is an insightful and valuable book on the complex ties between migration, care, and aging. Michele Ruth Gamburd traces malleable lives and livelihoods that need to be recast in the context of shifting economies and social relations and confronting the risks and rewards associated with them. Her work will be an important resource for researchers, students, and readers in challenging times when care, migration, and social ties are being tested across the world." —Kavita Sivaramakrishnan, author of As the World Ages: Rethinking a Demographic Crisis

“A deeply localized and richly depicted narrative of aging in Sri Lanka. Gamburd skillfully situates the processes of how families care for elder loved ones within the wide, global context of aging in the 21st century. As a result, Linked Lives’ novel insights about aging in Sri Lanka create a highly engaging and valuable case study, applicable to many similar places in the global south facing rapid population aging.” —Benjamin Capistrant, associate professor, Smith College

When youth shake off their rural roots and middle-aged people migrate for economic opportunities, what happens to the grandparents left at home? Linked Lives provides readers with intimate glimpses into homes in a Sri Lankan Buddhist village, where elders wisely use their moral authority and their control over valuable property to assure that they receive both physical and spiritual care when they need it.

Michele Ruth Gamburd is professor of anthropology at Portland State University, Oregon.

Global Perspectives on Aging

The Devil’s Fruit
Farmworkers, Health, and Environmental Justice
Dvera I. Saxton

The Devils’ Fruit describes the facets of the strawberry industry as a harm industry, and explores author Dvera I. Saxton’s activist ethnographic work with farmworkers in response to health and environmental injustices. She argues that dealing with devilish—as in deadly, depressing, disabling, and toxic—problems requires intersecting ecosocial, emotional, ethnographic, and activist labors. Through her work as an activist medical anthropologist, she found the caring labors of engaged ethnography take on many forms that go in many different directions. Through chapters that examine farmworkers’ embodiment of toxic pesticides and social and workplace relationships, Saxton critically and reflexively describes and analyzes the ways that engaged and activist ethnographic methods, frameworks, and ethics aligned and conflicted, and in various ways helped support still ongoing struggles for farmworker health and environmental justice in California. These are problems shared by other agricultural communities in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Dvera I. Saxton is an assistant professor of anthropology at California State University, Fresno.

Medical Anthropology

Rutgers University Press • Anthropology SS24
Race and Nation in Puerto Rican Folklore
Franz Boas and John Alden Mason in Porto Rico
RAFAEL OCASIO

Race and Nation in Puerto Rican Folklore explores the founding father of American anthropology’s historic trip to Puerto Rico in 1915. As a component of the Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Boas intended to perform field research in the areas of anthropology and ethnography there while other scientists explored the island’s natural resources. Native Puerto Rican cultural practices were also heavily explored through documentation of the island’s oral folklore. A young anthropologist working under Boas, John Alden Mason, rescued hundreds of oral folklore samples, ranging from popular songs, poetry, conundrums, sayings, and, most particularly, folktales. Through extensive excursions, Mason came in touch with the rural practices of Puerto Rican peasants, the Jíbaros, who served as both his cultural informants and writers of the folklore samples. These stories, many of which are still part of the island’s literary traditions, reflect a strong Puerto Rican identity coalescing in the face of the U.S. political intervention on the island. A fascinating slice of Puerto Rican history and culture sure to delight any reader!

RAFAEL OCASIO is the Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Critical Caribbean Studies

Intimate Geopolitics

Love, Territory, and the Future on India’s Northern Threshold
SARA SMITH

“Intimate Geopolitics is a richly crafted book, which forcefully demonstrates that politics of the intimate are intricately tied to global political maneuverings. Its empirical detail, animated through stories of the people Smith interviewed in Ladakh, reveal that the deeply personal and painful struggles refuse to be contained to the intimate. They bristle with tension and vulnerability about territory, sovereignty, and belonging.”
—Rupal Oza, author of The Making of Neoliberal India

Intimate Geopolitics begins with a love story set in the Himalayan region of Ladakh, in India’s Jammu and Kashmir State, but this is also a story about territory, and the ways that love, marriage, and young people are caught up in contemporary global processes. In Ladakh, children grow up to adopt a religious identity in part to be counted in the census, and to vote in elections. Religion, population, and voting blocs are implicitly tied to territorial sovereignty and marriage across religious boundaries becomes a geopolitical problem in an area that seeks to define insiders and outsiders in relation to borders and national identity. This book populates territory, a conventionally abstract rendering of space, with the stories of those who live through territorial struggle at marriage and birth ceremonies, in the kitchen and in the bazaar, in heartbreak and in joy. Intimate Geopolitics argues for the incorporation of the role of time—temporality—into our understanding of territory.

SARA SMITH is an associate professor in the department of geography at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Rutgers University Press • Anthropology SS24
Marriage and Health
The Well-Being of Same-Sex Couples
EDITED BY HUI LIU, CORINNE RECZEK, AND LINDSEY WILKINSON

“We are only at the beginning of understanding how marriage and other types of romantic unions influence mental and physical health for same-sex couples. The editors of Marriage and Health have deftly brought together the best evidence available to tell us what is currently known and where we need to go in the future.”
—Debra Umberson, author of Death of a Parent: Transition to a New Adult Identity

Marriage and Health: The Well-Being of Same-Sex Couples represents the forefront of marriage and health research and the far-reaching policy implications for the health of same-sex couples. This collection of essays presents new perspectives that address current opportunities and challenges faced by people in same-sex unions in multiple domains of well-being, including physical and mental health, social support, socialized behaviors, and stigmas. The book offers a broad view of same-sex couples’ experiences by examining not only marriage and civil unions, but also dating and cohabiting relationships as well as same-sex sexual experiences outside of relationships.

HIU LIU is a professor of sociology at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

CORINNE RECZEK is an associate professor of sociology at Ohio State University in Columbus.

LINDSEY WILKINSON is an associate professor of sociology at Portland State University, Oregon.

The Children in Child Health
Negotiating Young Lives and Health in New Zealand
JULIE SPRAY

“This is a beautifully written book that sheds light on children’s understandings of public health messages and practices. It is enlivened by the words of children and by Dr Spray’s critical analysis which situates the children’s experiences within the landscape of health and social inequities of Aotearoa, New Zealand.”
—Karen Witten, co-editor of Children’s Health and Wellbeing in Urban Environments

“At last, a book about child health that puts children at the center: as actors, as co-producers and most importantly as human beings. It should be compulsory reading for health professionals, social workers, and anyone else anyone else who takes child health and wellbeing seriously.”
—Kate Hampshire, co-author of Young People’s Daily Mobilities in Sub-Saharan Africa: Moving Young Lives

The Children in Child Health challenges the invisibility of children’s perspectives in health policy and argues that paying attention to what children do is critical for understanding the practical and policy implications of these experiences.

In the unique context of indigenous Mauri and migrant Pacific children in postcolonial New Zealand, Julie Spray explores the intertwining issues of epidemic disease, malnutrition, stress, violence, self-harm, and death to address the problem of how scholars and policy-makers alike can recognize and respond to children as social actors in their health.

JULIE SPRAY is a postdoctoral research associate at Washington University in St. Louis.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies

Rutgers University Press • Anthropology SS24
Cultural Anxieties
Managing Migrant Suffering in France
STÉPHANIE LARCHANCHE

Cultural Anxieties is a gripping ethnography about Centre Minkowska, a transcultural psychiatry clinic in Paris, France. From her unique position as both observer and staff member, anthropologist Stéphanie Larchanche explores the challenges of providing non-stigmatizing mental healthcare to migrants. In particular, she documents how restrictive immigration policies, limited resources, and social anxieties about the “other” combine to constrain the work of state social and health service providers who refer migrants to the clinic and who tend to frame “migrant suffering” as a problem of integration that requires cultural expertise to address. In this context, Larchanche describes how staff members at Minkowska struggle to promote cultural competence, which offers a culturally and linguistically sensitive approach to care while simultaneously addressing the broader structural factors that impact migrants’ mental health. Ultimately, Larchanche identifies practical routes for improving caregiving practices and promoting hospitality—including professional training, action research, and advocacy.

STÉPHANIE LARCHANCHE is the research and studies department coordinator at Centre Minkowska in Paris, and a lecturer at University Paris Descartes and Sigmund Freud University, Vienna. She lives in Saint Denis, France.

Medical Anthropology: Health, Inequality, and Social Justice

Global Mental Health
Latin America and Spanish-Speaking Populations
EDITED BY JAVIER I ESCOBAR

Global Mental Health provides an outline of the field of mental health with a particular focus on Latin America and the Spanish-speaking world. The book details evidence-based approaches being implemented globally, highlighting pros and cons of each approach and presents ongoing state of the art research on major mental disorders taking place in Latin America, including Alzheimer’s, bipolar disorder, Schizophrenia and other psychoses. While supporting the initiative for capacity building in low income countries, the book warns about some of the potential risks related to the abuse of psychiatry, using outstanding examples from the past with a focus on early 20th century Spain.

JAVIER I. ESCOBAR MD is Associate Dean for Global Health, and professor of psychiatry and family medicine at Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Rutgers Global Health
Reluctant Interveners
America’s Failed Responses to Genocide from Bosnia to Darfur
EYAL MAYROZ

“This serious, balanced, and compelling account of American ambivalence is sober but important reading. It could not be more timely.”
—Edward C. Luck, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

“Genocide will not happen again if societies and governments respond properly. Sober and strong, this book focuses on the USA and its citizens and is an invitation to all to do what is possible and right.”
—Andrea Bartoli, Dean, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University

Why do we allow our governments to get away with “bystanding” to genocide? How can we, when alerted to the mass slaughter of innocents, still not take a stand? Reluctant Interveners provides the most comprehensive answers yet to these confronting questions, focusing on the complex relationships between the citizenry, the media, the political elites, and institutions in the most powerful nation in the world, the United States of America. Eyal Mayroz offers a sobering account of the interactions between the governing and the governed, and the dynamics which transformed moral concerns for the lives of faraway “others” into cold political calculations.

EYAL MAYROZ is a lecturer in the department of peace and conflict studies at the University of Sydney.

Implementing Inequality
The Invisible Labor of International Development
REBECCA WARNE PETERS

“This is a timely and well-judged analysis of the ‘internal inequalities’ that exist at the heart of the project of international development. In a thoughtful and highly readable account of a governance program in Angola, Rebecca Warne Peters combines original theoretical insight with careful empirical analysis.”
—David Lewis, author of Non-Governmental Organizations, Management and Development

“Implementing Inequality is a rare book that comes alive in the best tradition of ethnographic description while building solid theory. Peters’ rich account humanizes people in the “implementariat” and their daily challenges, struggles, and decisions. Ultimately hopeful, Implementing Inequality reminds us that frontline workers are already policymakers whose experience can guide a still-possible transformative development.”
—Mark Schuller, author of Humanitarian Aftershocks in Haiti

Implementing Inequality argues that the international development industry’s internal dynamics—between international and national staff, and among policy makers, administrators, and implementers—shape interventions and their outcomes as much as do the external dynamics of global political economy. Through an ethnographic study in postwar Angola, the book demonstrates how the industry’s internal social pressures guide development’s methods and goals.

REBECCA WARNE PETERS is an anthropologist of southern Africa. She has published in American Anthropologist, Human Organization, and Critical African Studies, among other venues.
Belonging and Becoming in a Multicultural World
Refugee Youth and the Pursuit of Identity
LAURA MORAN

“This book offers a rich ethnography of the lives of refugee youth in a culturally diverse world. Eschewing both celebratory multiculturalism and a narrow focus on racism, the book deftly examines the ways race and friendship are woven together in the identity-making practices of young refugees. Moran insightfully foregrounds the importance of understanding the ‘responsive’ nature of identity in forging a sense of place and belonging in culturally diverse schools.”

—Greg Noble, co-editor of Convivialities: Possibility and Ambivalence in Urban Multicultures

Becoming and Belonging in a Multicultural World is a wonderfully fresh account of how refugee background youth challenge, invert and identify with racialized and ethnicized identity categories and navigate difference in their daily lives. The book foregrounds the voices of young people themselves offering a much needed counter-narrative to the all too often calcified identity constructs that animate much political discussion today. More than anything, it offers a rich account of the narrative forces that shape how diverse young people are able to realize a sense of belonging in a multicultural society.

—Amanda Wise, Convivialities: Possibility and Ambivalence in Urban Multicultures

LAURA MORAN is a cultural anthropologist who researches issues of youth and identity, race and ethnicity, the refugee experience and multicultural inclusion.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies

The Queer Aesthetics of Childhood
Asymmetries of Innocence and the Cultural Politics of Child Development
HANNAH DYER

“The Queer Aesthetics of Childhood makes a necessary and nuanced intervention in contemporary theorizations of the child, balancing the sociopolitical with the material while interrogating the array of affects and artifacts always in dialogue with the child. Working from a vibrant interdisciplinary stance—including biopolitics, psychoanalysis, racial capitalism, and queer theory, Dyer weaves a fresh framework to read the child and, as centrally, to query child development and its attendant affects. Engaging a generative lens of arts and aesthetics—films, contemporary artists and other cultural workers—that provoke audiences to recognize the layered arrangements of power that both surround and mark the child, Dyer’s lyrically crafted book is essential reading.”

—Erica R. Meiners, author of Flaunt It! Queers Organizing for Public Education and Justice, Right to Be Hostile

“Exciting, tender, persuasive, and smart. Dyer’s book is a clarion call to care for the bodies we call children. Let their creativity, strange in all its beauties, tell us how they’re harmed—hurt by norms that foster inequalities. I believe more than ever, thanks to Hannah Dyer, that ‘children’ and ‘aesthetics’ are the most profound pairing for safeguarding pleasure, for all living creatures, amid world trauma.”

—Kathryn Bond Stockton, author of The Queer Child, or Growing Sideways in the Twentieth Century

HANNAH DYER is an assistant professor of child and youth studies at Brock University in Ontario, Canada.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies
Chronic Failures
Kidneys, Regimes of Care, and the Mexican State
CIARA KIERANS

“Chronic Failures unfolds a chilling account of the pathological regimes of renal care in Jalisco, Mexico, written in taut prose that is at once theoretically incisive and full of telling ethnographic texture. Kierans lays bare how sickness itself is made into a form of consuming labor—one that more often produces hardship and harm rather than health.”
—Megan Crowley-Matoka, author of Domesticating Organ Transplant: Familial Sacrifice and National Aspiration in Mexico

“Kierans offers an extraordinary portrait of the challenges underlying efforts to survive kidney failure in Mexico. ‘Regimes of care’ extend far beyond clinical interventions, incorporating (and insisting upon) the ongoing labors of kin, including the transport challenges of ongoing dialysis treatments, the oppressive cost of immunosuppressant drugs post-transplant, the limits of universal insurance and its bureaucratic burdens, and even the necessity of having a microwave at home. This beautifully written, thought-provoking work stands out as an important contribution to social scientists’ writings on the sociomedical dimensions of organ failure, healthcare disparities, and on the entanglement of suffering and hope.”
—Lesley A. Sharp, author of The Transplant Imaginary

Speech and Song at the Margins of Global Health
Zulu Tradition, HIV Stigma, and AIDS Activism in South Africa
STEVEN P. BLACK

“In a bold move that crosses analytic divides between medical anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and ethnomusicology, Steven Black explores connections between HIV/AIDS, medicine, music, faith and activism in South Africa. The analytic scope of Speech and Song at the Margins of Global Health is matched by its inspiring ethnographic depth.”
—Charles Briggs, co-author of Making Health Public

“This ethnographically rich volume explores the remarkable case of a South African Zulu choir in Durban consisting of HIV sufferers who, as activists, negotiate social stigma and medical organizations through song, faith, comradeship and traditional language. Black’s concepts of ‘bio-speech community’ and medical-semiotic ‘transposition’ provide an innovative theoretical framework.”
—David Parkin, author of Anthropology Situated in the Contemporary World

Speech and Song at the Margins of Global Health tells the story of a unique Zulu gospel choir comprised of people living with HIV in South Africa, and how they maintained healthy, productive lives amid globalized inequality, international aid, and the stigma that often comes with having HIV.

STEVEN P. BLACK is an associate professor in the department of anthropology at Georgia State University in Atlanta.
Honor and the Political Economy of Marriage
Violence against Women in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
JOANNE PAYTON

FOREWORD BY DEEYAH KHAN

“Honor and the Political Economy of Marriage underlies ambitious narratives regarding the rights of women in marriage and formation of alliance, while also offering a global comparative approach analyzing the giving and receiving of women in various contexts, providing a survey of types of marriages and cultural significance of women as commodity within the lens of marriages and what unions entail.”
—Lina Fruzzetti, Brown University

Honor and the Political Economy of Marriage provides a description of ‘honor’-based violence that focuses upon the structure of the family rather than the perpetrator’s culture. Payton argues that within societies primarily organized by familial and marital connections, women’s ‘honor’ is a form of symbolic capital within a ‘political economy’ in which marriage organizes intergroup connections. Payton explores forms of marriage and their relationship to ‘honor’, sketching changing norms around the familial control of women from agrarian/pastoral roots to the contemporary era.

JOANNE PAYTON has worked with the Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organization since 2005. She also works with the media company Fuuse in London, UK, appearing in the Emmy-award winning film Banaz: A Love Story, which explores an ‘honor’ killing.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts

Courting Desire
Litigating for Love in North India
RAMA SRINIVASAN

“Courting Desire offers an unusual mix of ethnographic perspectives, exploring the pursuit of love and the critical role played by legal institutions in changing times. Srinivasan presents a rich canvas of messy human realities, while making a persuasive argument for the stable yet transformative value of law.”
—Ann Grodzins Gold, author of Listening to the Heron’s Words: Reimaging Gender and Kinship in North India

“With captivating stories of love and elopement, Rama Srinivasan offers readers a refreshing new view of shifting paradigms on marriage and consent in North India. While elopement challenges both patriarchy and kinship, the courtroom offers young couples a legal validity and a new sense of personhood. This richly woven account mixes the interplay of changing gender roles, political economies, Bollywood films, and the democratic state for a delightful, intimate read into modern India.”
—Erin Patrice Moore, author of Gender, Law, and Resistance in India

Through ethnographic research in courtrooms, community and kinship spaces, Srinivasan outlines the transformations in material culture and political economy that have led to renewed negotiations on the institution of marriage in North India, especially in legal spaces.

RAMA SRINIVASAN holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and currently pens articles on gender and sexuality, politics, cinema and popular culture, law and society, and immigration and diaspora issues. She lives in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts
Indigenous Communalism
Belonging, Healthy Communities, and Decolonizing the Collective
CAROLYN SMITH-MORRIS

"Inspiring and thought provoking, Indigenous Communalism is both an innovative ethnography of communalism and collectivist life and a conveyor of critical hope for our times. We move with the author along a compelling journey committed to Indigenous rights but also to viewing humanity's future through the lens of Indigeneity, open to the possibility (if not necessity) of transforming the divisive politics that defines our individualist age into a more socially just communalist world."

—Mark K. Watson, author of Japan’s Ainu Minority in Tokyo: Diasporic Indigeneity and Urban Politics

"Indigenous Communalism can serve as an introduction to those interested in indigenous studies, southern epistemologies, and decolonial thinking, as a resource for moving forward contemporary social theory, and as a complement to global south proposals by showing that it is in the complex realm of hybridity and diversity where struggles for sense-making take place."

—César Abadía-Barrero, author of I Have AIDS but I am Happy: Children's Subjectivities, AIDS and Social Responses in Brazil

CAROLYN SMITH-MORRIS is an associate professor of anthropology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She is the author of Diabetes among the Pima, editor of Diagnostic Controversy: Cultural Perspectives on Competing Knowledge in Healthcare, and co-editor of Chronic Conditions, Fluid States: Chronicity and the Anthropology of Illness (Rutgers).

The End of International Adoption?
An Unraveling Reproductive Market and the Politics of Healthy Babies
ESTYE FENTON

"Estye Fenton brings us an eagerly awaited examination of the experiences of parents who adopted their children internationally in the last decade. Timely and relevant, Fenton's monograph is a welcome addition to the scholarship on international adoption and contemporary families."

—Heather Jacobson, author of Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies

Since 2004, the number of international adoptions in the United States has declined by more than seventy percent. In The End of International Adoption? Estye Fenton studies parents in the United States who adopted internationally in the past decade during this shift. Many parents, activists, and scholars have questioned whether the inequality inherent in international adoption renders the entire system suspect. In the face of such concerns, international adoption has not only become more difficult, but also more politically and ethically fraught. The mothers interviewed for this book found themselves navigating contemporary American family life in an unexpected way, caught between the double-bind of work-family life and a new paradigm of thinking about the method—international adoption—that they used to create those families.

ESTYE FENTON is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of West Alabama in Livingston.

Rutgers University Press • Anthropology SS24
Mothering from the Field
The Impact of Motherhood on Site-Based Research
EDITED BY BAHIYYAH MIALLAH MUHAMMAD AND MÉLANIE-ANGELA NEUILLY

The heated national conversation about gender equality and women in the workforce is something that women in academia have been concerned with and writing about for at least a decade. Overall, the conversation has focused on identifying how women in general and mothers in particular fare in the academy as a whole, as well as offering tips on how to maximize success. Aside from a long-standing field-specific debate in anthropology, rare are the volumes focusing on the particulars of motherhood’s impacts on how scientific research is conducted, particularly when it comes to field research.

Mothering from the Field offers both a mosaic of perspectives from current women scientists’ experiences of conducting field research across a variety of sub-disciplines while raising children, and an analytical framework to understand how we can redefine methodological and theoretical contributions based on mothers’ experiences in order not just to promote healthier, more inclusive, nurturing, and supportive environments in physical, life, and social sciences, but also to revolutionize how we conceptualize research.

BAHIYYAH MIALLAH MUHAMMAD is an assistant professor in the department of sociology and criminology at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

MÉLANIE-ANGELA NEUILLY is an associate professor in the department of criminal justice and criminology at Washington State University in Pullman.

All Together Now
American Holiday Symbolism Among Children and Adults
CINDY DELL CLARK

In a hard driving society like the United States, holidays are islands of softness. Holidays are times for creating memories and for celebrating cultural values, emotions, and social ties. All Together Now considers holidays that are celebrated by American families: Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Halloween, and the December holidays of Christmas or Chanukah. This book shows how entire families bond at holidays, in ways that allow both children and adults to be influential within their shared interaction.

The decorations, songs, special ways of dressing, and rituals carry deep significance that is viscerally felt by even young tots. Ritual has the capacity to condense a plethora of meaning into a unified metaphor such as a Christmas tree, a menorah, or the American flag. These symbols allow children and adults to co-opt the meaning of symbols in flexible and age-relevant ways, all while the symbols are still treasured and shared in common.

CINDY DELL CLARK is an associate professor of anthropology at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey. She is the author of In A Younger Voice: Doing Child-Centered Qualitative Research.

Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies
Infected Kin
Orphan Care and AIDS in Lesotho
ELLEN BLOCK AND WILL McGRATH

“Drawing on the authors’ in-depth experience in the small, landlocked southern African country of Lesotho comes this gem of a book—at once funny and sad, inspiring and sobering—that conveys the social consequences of HIV through a focus on orphans and their care.”
—Daniel Jordan Smith, author of AIDS Doesn’t Show Its Face: Inequality, Morality, and Social Change in Nigeria

AIDS has devastated communities across southern Africa. In Lesotho, where a quarter of adults are infected, the wide-ranging implications of the disease have been felt in every family, disrupting key aspects of social life. In Infected Kin, Ellen Block and Will McGrath argue that AIDS is fundamentally a kinship disease, examining the ways it transcends infected individuals and seeps into kin relations and networks of care. While much AIDS scholarship has turned away from the difficult daily realities of those affected by the disease, Infected Kin uses both ethnographic scholarship and creative nonfiction to bring to life both the joys and struggles of the Basotho people at the heart of the AIDS pandemic. The result is a book accessible to wide readership, yet built upon scholarship.

ELLEN BLOCK is an assistant professor of anthropology in the department of sociology at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

WILL McGRATH is an award-winning writer and journalist. He has written for The Atlantic, Pacific Standard, Foreign Affairs, the Christian Science Monitor, and Gastronomica. He is also the author of Everything Lost Is Found Again.

Pathogenic Policing
Immigration Enforcement and Health in the U.S. South
NOLAN KLINE

The relationship between undocumented immigrants and law enforcement officials continues to be a politically contentious topic in the United States. Nolan Kline focuses on the hidden, health-related impacts of immigrant policing to examine the role of policy in shaping health inequality in the U.S., and responds to fundamental questions regarding biopolitics, especially how policy can reinforce ‘race’ as a vehicle of social division. He argues that immigration enforcement policy results in a shadow medical system, shapes immigrants’ health and interpersonal relationships, and has health-related impacts that extend beyond immigrants to affect health providers, immigrant rights groups, hospitals, and the overall health system. Pathogenic Policing follows current immigrant policing regimes in Georgia and contextualizes contemporary legislation and law enforcement practices against a backdrop of historical forms of political exclusion from health and social services for all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. For anyone concerned about the health of the most vulnerable among us, and those who interact with the overall health safety net, this will be an eye-opening read.

NOLAN KLINE is an assistant professor of anthropology at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

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Eileen Bertelli (Key National Accounts, Albany Metro and upstate NY, NJ, MD, DE, Pittsburgh Metro and PA)
P: 845 987 7233
M: 845 492 7309
F: 866 761 7112
eileenbertelli@parsonweems.com
Christopher R. Kerr (Key National Accounts, MA, CT, RI, ME, VT, NH)
P: 914 329 4961
F: 866 861 0337
chriskerr@parsonweems.com
Jason Kincade (Key National Accounts, NY Metro, Hudson Valley, Philadelphia Metro, Washington DC Metro)
P: 347 244 2165
F: 866 861 0337
jasonkincade@parsonweems.com
Causten Stehle (Manager) P: 914 948 4259
F: 866 861 0337
office@parsonweems.com

West
Faherty and Associates, Inc.
P 503 639 3113 / 800 824 2888
F 503 213 6168
fahertybooks.com
faherty@fahertybooks.com
Shea Petty, sales coordinator
shea@fahertybooks.com
Richard McNeace
richard@fahertybooks.com
(CA, NM)
Trevin Matlock
trevin@fahertybooks.com
(WA, OR, ID, UT, WA, MT, AK, HI)
Joseph Tremblay
ejoe@fahertybooks.com
Parson Weems Publisher Services
parsonweems.com
Mid-Atlantic / New England
Eileen Bertelli (Key National Accounts, Albany Metro and upstate NY, NJ, MD, DE, Pittsburgh Metro and PA)
P: 845 987 7233
M: 845 492 7309
F: 866 761 7112
eileenbertelli@parsonweems.com
Causten Stehle (Manager) P: 914 948 4259
F: 866 861 0337
office@parsonweems.com

Midwest
University of Chicago Press
Bailey Walsh
P 608 588 0199 M 608 345 4306
bgw@uchicago.edu
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Eileen Bertelli (Key National Accounts, NY Metro, Hudson Valley, Philadelphia Metro, Washington DC Metro)
Faherty and Associates, Inc.
P 503 639 3113 / 800 824 2888
F 503 213 6168
fahertybooks.com
faherty@fahertybooks.com
Shea Petty, sales coordinator
shea@fahertybooks.com
Richard McNeace
richard@fahertybooks.com
(CA, NM)
Trevin Matlock
trevin@fahertybooks.com
(WA, OR, ID, UT, WA, MT, AK, HI)
Joseph Tremblay
ejoe@fahertybooks.com
Parson Weems Publisher Services
parsonweems.com
Mid-Atlantic / New England
Eileen Bertelli (Key National Accounts, NY Metro, Hudson Valley, Philadelphia Metro, Washington DC Metro)
Faherty and Associates, Inc.
P 503 639 3113 / 800 824 2888
F 503 213 6168
fahertybooks.com
faherty@fahertybooks.com
Shea Petty, sales coordinator
shea@fahertybooks.com
Richard McNeace
richard@fahertybooks.com
(CA, NM)
Trevin Matlock
trevin@fahertybooks.com
(WA, OR, ID, UT, WA, MT, AK, HI)
Joseph Tremblay
ejoe@fahertybooks.com
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