In view of the recent neoliberal changes in Indian agriculture, provoking debate and mass protests, Andrew Flachs offers us a timely, relevant and well-written book on cotton through the lens of farmers' everyday life and choices. Flachs studied big issues like farmers' suicide, sustainability, and cotton capitalism through a nuanced ethnography of small things, like seeds, their circulation in local markets, and the decisions that motivate farmers to grow hybrid, genetically modified, or organic crops. This remarkable book employs the case of Andhra Telangana cotton farmers to ask how biotechnology and alternative agriculture create possibilities for sustainable rural well-being in the developing world.

In the context of transnational marriage, while also integrating the perspectives of village and family members. Written in a clear, concise, and accessible language, this book is a remarkable anthropology of cosmopolitan relationships through Asian grammars of women's agency.

The author, Deborah Nadal, presents a compelling study of a zoonotic disease. This eye-opening book on the implications of rabies, its financial and human costs, and the social and cultural reasons that make it a deadly and neglected disease, is particularly illuminating at a time when humanity is grappling with the Covid pandemic and inoculation campaigns. Through an excellent anthropology of zoonosis from an interspecies perspective, Nadal argues for a One World One Health concept that centres on the entanglement of human, nonhuman, animals and environment as co-participants for fostering mutual well-being.

Author: Deborah Nadal
Title: Rabies in the Streets: Interspecies Camaraderie in Urban India
Publisher: Penn State University Press, 2020

Following the lives, the journeys and the aspirations of Thai women married to European men (mia farang) and their families in north-east Thailand, this book offers a unique contribution to studies on intimacy, migration, and transnational marriage. Deconstructing stereotypes that posit economic benefit, sex work, and marriage in different categories, Lapanun offers a nuanced understanding of both white men and Thai women's mutual expectations, gender roles and agency in the context of transnational marriage, while also offering the perspectives of village and family members. Written in a clear, concise, and accessible language, this book is a remarkable anthropology of cosmopolitan relationships through Asian grammars of women's agency.

Author: Patcharin Lapanun
Title: Love, Money and Obligation: Transnational Marriage in a Northeastern Thai Village
Publisher: National University of Singapore Press, 2019.

Sudipta Sen's book guides the reader through an epic journey: a seamlessly interweaved history of the river Ganges that includes mythology, ecology, literary pasts and lived relationships of people, waters, and meanings. Beautifully written, it employs a vastness of sources collected and analysed over decades of patient, passionate and meticulous scholarship. Sudipta Sen's book places the Ganges at the centre as a subject of interest and study. It brings together various streams of inquiry on the most pure and most polluted of all rivers, the amphibious deity that bridges between water and earth, and between people and gods.

Author: Sudipta Sen
Title: Ganges: The Many Pasts of an Indian River
Publisher: Yale University Press, 2019

Through a deeply embodied and empathetic ethnography, Nasir Uddin guides us in an immersion of powerful biographies and heart-breaking stories of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, which he employs to formulate his conceptual framework of 'subhuman life'. Rooted in commitment and dedication to social justice, dignity and recognition, Nasir Uddin's book has the revolutionary potential to inspire solidarity by changing people's understanding and attitude towards Rohingya refugees. Besides helping visualise the struggles of displaced people, this study also includes many interviews with the local Bengalis, to offer us the perceptions of the 'hosts'. Through his critical analysis, we learn that we should look beyond notions of statelessness as culprit for the refugees' lives of uncertainty and discrimination and that there are deeper implications in the process of (host and home) state formation itself.

Author: Nasir Uddin
Title: The Rohingya: An Ethnography of 'Subhuman' Life
Publisher: Oxford University Press, 2020.
This beautifully written study of politically engaged visual artists explores a fascinating phase of the history of arts and politics in Calcutta, informing the local while resonating transnationally. A ground-breaking call to take aesthetic sensibilities seriously and consider art as archive of late colonial and post-colonial histories.

Author: Alyssa Dawn Esquivel Paredes
Title: Plantation Peripheries: The Multiple Makings of Asia’s Banana Republic
Institution: Yale University, 2020

This dissertation brings together machine learning with fascinating expert interviews to investigate the underlining motivations for China to designate autonomous ethnic regions. Finding that questions of population mobilization and center-periphery arrangements are more decisive than demands by ethnic minorities, it deepens understandings of Chinese ethnic policy and suggests new directions for the study of ethnic management and authoritarianism beyond China.

Author: Chao-ye Cheng
Title: Autonomous Autocracy: Explaining Ethnic Policies in Post-Mao China
Institution: University of California, Los Angeles, 2021

This dissertation is a thoughtful reading of the intricacies of the intimate life of Tamil women and signposts the need for local actors to be reinserted into the market frame. It is a rigorous exposition of the shortcomings of the commodity chain’s production calculus and signposts the need for local actors to be reinserted into the market frame.

Author: Ranjana Raghunathan
Title: Inhabiting Intimate Worlds: Tamil Women and Belonging in Singapore
Institution: National University of Singapore, 2020

This work presents vivid ethnographic accounts of everyday lives of New Age practitioners in Delhi and beyond, but also related to, identity, citizenship and place.

Author: Joachi Fengjiang
Title: Grassroots Philanthropy in China: Work, Ethics, and Social Change
Institution: London School of Economics and Political Science, 2019

Edited Volume / Co-Author Monograph Accolade

Author: Lucila Michelotti, Ashraf Hoque, Nicolas Martin, David Picherit, Paul Roller, Arild E. Rue, Clarinda Still
Title: Mafia Rap. The Rule of Bossas in South Asia
Institution: Stanford University Press

Collaborative, multivocal and organic, this book offers an accessible and comprehensive anthropology of gangster politicians and violent entrepreneurs in South Asia. It elucidates muscular politics and everyday criminality with analytical depth and ethnographic detail through portraits of charismatic anti-heroes with blurred identities, encompassing boss, delinquent and movie star.

Author: Sicily Sundararajan
Title: Partisan Aesthetics: Modern Art and India’s Long Decolonization
Institution: Stanford University Press

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