

genealogies of shamanism struggles for power charisma and authority

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Delve into the fascinating genealogies of shamanism, tracing the historical evolution of spiritual authority. This exploration uncovers the complex power dynamics and inherent struggles for influence, highlighting how charisma has historically shaped shamanic leadership and the very fabric of spiritual power within communities.

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Genealogies of Shamanism

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Genealogies of Shamanism

Representing a range of approaches and emphases, the chapters in this volume address and illustrate linkages between social theory and history; social theory and historical analysis as mutually supportive frames of analysis, and affinities between the history of social thought and the history of modern societies.

Social Theories of History and Histories of Social Theory

Comparison is an indispensable intellectual operation that plays a crucial role in the formation of knowledge. Yet comparison often leads us to forego attention to nuance, detail, and context, perhaps leaving us bereft of an ethical obligation to take things correspondingly as they are. Examining the practice of comparison across the study of history, language, religion, and culture, distinguished scholar of religion Bruce Lincoln argues in *Apples and Oranges* for a comparatism of a more modest sort. Lincoln presents critiques of recent attempts at grand comparison, and enlists numerous theoretical examples of how a more modest, cautious, and discriminating form of comparison might work and what it can accomplish. He does this through studies of shamans, werewolves, human sacrifices, apocalyptic prophecies, sacred kings, and surveys of materials as diverse and wide-ranging as *Beowulf*, Herodotus's account of the Scythians, the Native American Ghost Dance, and the Spanish Civil War. Ultimately, Lincoln argues that concentrating one's focus on a relatively small number of items that the researcher can compare closely, offering equal attention to relations of similarity and difference, not only grants dignity to all parties considered, it yields more reliable and more interesting—if less grandiose—results. Giving equal attention to the social, historical, and political contexts and subtexts of religious and literary texts also allows scholars not just to assess their content, but also to understand the forces, problems, and circumstances that motivated and shaped them.

Apples and Oranges

Shamanism, Discourse, Modernity considers indigenous peoples' struggles for human rights, anxieties about anthropocentric mastery of nature, neoliberal statecraft, and entrepreneurialism of the self. The

book focuses on four domains - shamanism, indigenism, environmentalism and neoliberalism - in terms of interrelated historical processes and overlapping discourses. In doing so, it engages with shamanism's manifold meanings in a world increasingly sensitive to indigenous peoples' practices of territoriality, increasingly concerned about humans' integral relationship with natural environments, and increasingly encouraged and coerced to adjust self-conduct to comport with and augment government conduct.

Shamanism, Discourse, Modernity

A remarkable array of people have been called shamans, while the phenomena identified as shamanism continues to proliferate. This second edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Shamanism* contains with examples from antiquity up to today, and from Siberia (where the term "shaman" originated) to Amazonia, South Africa, Chicago and many other places. Many claims about shamans and shamanism are contentious and all are worthy of discussion. In the most widespread understandings, terms seem to refer particularly to people who alter states of consciousness or enter trances in order to seek knowledge and help from powerful other-than-human persons, perhaps "spirits". But this says only a little about the artists, community leaders, spiritual healers or hucksters, travelers in alternative realities and so on to which the label "shaman" has been applied. This second edition contains a chronology, an introduction, and extensive bibliography. The dictionary contains over 500 cross-referenced dictionary entries on individuals, groups, practices and cultures that have been called "shamanic". This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about Shamanism.

Historical Dictionary of Shamanism

This biography of the Polish British anthropologist Maria Czaplicka (1884–1921) is also a cultural study of the dynamics of the anthropological collective presented from a researcher-centric perspective. Czaplicka, together with Bronisław Malinowski, studied anthropology in London and later at Oxford, then she headed the Yenisei Expedition to Siberia (1914–15) and was the first female lecturer of anthropology at Oxford. She was an engaged feminist and an expert on political issues in Northern Asia and Eastern Europe. But this remarkable woman's career was cut short by suicide. Like many women anthropologists of the time, Czaplicka journeyed through various academic institutions, and her legacy has been dispersed and her field materials lost. Gralyna Kubica covers the major events in Czaplicka's life and provides contextual knowledge about the intellectual formation in which Czaplicka grew up, including the Warsaw radical intelligentsia and the contemporary anthropology of which she became a part. Kubica also presents a critical analysis of Czaplicka's scientific and literary works, related to the issues of gender, shamanism, and race. Kubica shows how Czaplicka's sense of agency and subjectivity enriched and shaped the practice of anthropology and sheds light on how scientific knowledge arises and is produced.

Maria Czaplicka

A "highly readable ethnographic study" of the resurgence of shamanism among nomadic Mongolians in a time of radical political and economic change (*The Journal of Asian Studies*). Winner, Francis Hsu Book Prize from the Society for East Asian Anthropology Shortlisted, ICAS (International Convention of Asia Scholars) Book Prize The collapse of socialism at the end of the twentieth century brought devastating changes to Mongolia. Economic shock therapy—an immediate liberalization of trade and privatization of publicly owned assets—quickly led to impoverishment, especially in rural parts of the country, where *Tragic Spirits* takes place. Following the travels of the nomadic Buryats, Manduhai Buyandelger tells a story not only of economic devastation but also a remarkable Buryat response to it—the revival of shamanic practices after decades of socialist suppression. Attributing their current misfortunes to returning ancestral spirits who are vengeful over being abandoned under socialism, the Buryats are now at once trying to appease their ancestors and recover the history of their people through shamanic practice. Thoroughly documenting this process, Buyandelger situates it as part of a global phenomenon, comparing the rise of shamanism in liberalized Mongolia to its similar rise in Africa and Indonesia. In doing so, she offers a sophisticated analysis of the way economics, politics, gender, and other factors influence the spirit world and the crucial workings of cultural memory. "An excellent addition to studies in the area . . . emotive, accessible and well-researched." —London School of Economics Review of Books

Tragic Spirits

The first book-length study of why the Beats were so fascinated by Mexico and how they represented its landscape, history, and mystical practices in their work, this volume examines such canonical figures as Kerouac, Burroughs, Ginsberg, Lamantia, McClure, and Ferlinghetti, as well as lesser-known female Beat writers like Margaret Randall, Bonnie Bremser, and Joanne Kyger.

The Beats in Mexico

The volume *Religion beyond its Private Role in Modern Society* aims at contributing to the debate on the distinction between public and private spheres with regard to the role of religion in modern societies.

Religion beyond its Private Role in Modern Society

This book opens a new interdisciplinary frontier between religion and theatre studies to illuminate what has been seen as the religious, or spiritual, nature of Polish theatre director Jerzy Grotowski's work. It corrects the lacunae in both theatre studies and religious studies by examining the interaction between the two fields in his artistic output. The central argument of the text is that through an embodied and materialist approach to religion, developed in the work of Michel Foucault and religious studies scholar Manuel Vasquez, as well as a critical reading of the concepts of the New Age, a new understanding of Grotowski and religion can be developed. It is possible to show how Grotowski's work articulated spiritual experience within the body; achieving a removal of spirituality from ecclesial authorities and relocating spiritual experience within the body of the performer. This is a unique analysis of one of the 20th Century's most famous theatrical figures. As such, it is a vital reference for academics in both Religion and Theatre Studies that have an interest in the spiritual aspects of Grotowski's work.

Rethinking Religion in the Theatre of Grotowski

In *The Night Battles*, Carlo Ginzburg does more than introduce his readers to a novel group of supposed witches – the Benandanti, from the northern Italian province of Friulia. He also invents and deploys new and creative ways of tackling his source material that allow him to move beyond their limitations. Witchcraft documents are notoriously tricky sources – produced by elites with fixed views, they are products of questioning designed to prove or disprove guilt, rather than understand the subtleties of belief, and are very often the products of torture. Ginzburg placed great stress on variations in the evidence of the Benandanti over time to reveal changing patterns of belief, and also focused on the concept of 'reading against the text' – essentially looking as much at what is absent from the record as at what is present in it, and attempting to understand what the absences mean. His work not only pioneered the creation of a new school of historical study – 'microhistory' – it is also a great example of the creative thinking skills of connecting things together in an original way, producing novel explanations for existing evidence, and redefining an issue so as to see it in a new light.

Transhumanism is a recent movement that extols man's right to shape his own evolution, by maximizing the use of scientific technologies, to enhance human physical and intellectual potential. While the name is new, the idea has long been a popular theme of science fiction, featured in such films as 2001: A Space Odyssey, Blade Runner, the Terminator series, and more recently, The Matrix, Limitless, Her and Transcendence. However, as its adherents hint at in their own publications, transhumanism is an occult project, rooted in Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry, and derived from the Kabbalah, which asserts that humanity is evolving intellectually, towards a point in time when man will become God. Modeled on the medieval legend of the Golem and Frankenstein, they believe man will be able to create life itself, in the form of living machines, or artificial intelligence. Spearheaded by the Cybernetics Group, the project resulted in both the development of the modern computer and MK-Ultra, the CIA's "mind-control" program. MK-Ultra promoted the "mind-expanding" potential of psychedelic drugs, to shape the counterculture of the 1960s, based on the notion that the shamans of ancient times used psychoactive substances, equated with the "apple" of the Tree of Knowledge. And, as revealed in the movie Lucy, through the use of "smart drugs," and what transhumanists call "mind uploading," man will be able to merge with the Internet, which is envisioned as the end-point of Kabbalistic evolution, the formation of a collective consciousness, or Global Brain. That awaited moment is what Ray Kurzweil, a director of engineering at Google, refers to as The Singularity. By accumulating the total of human knowledge, and providing access to every aspect of human activity, the Internet will supposedly achieve omniscience, becoming the "God" of occultism, or the Masonic All-Seeing Eye of the reverse side of the American dollar bill.

An Analysis of Carlo Ginzburg's The Night Battles

Christopher C. Knight's study re-examines religious pluralism, combining 'mystical theology' with insights from science-theology dialogues.

Transhumanism

The first comprehensive study to explore the role of esoteric, occult, alchemical, shamanistic, mystical and magical traditions in the work of major Beat authors.

Exploring Religious Pluralism

"The world viewed from the inside, the world defined and determined according to its "intelligible character"—it would be "will to power" and nothing else." Cryptic passages like this one from section 36 of Beyond Good and Evil have been the source of much intrigue, speculation, and puzzlement in the Nietzschean secondary literature. This passage in particular along with many others, have sparked a slew of questions in recent decades such as: "What is the will to power? "Is will to power a metaphysical principle?" "Is it an empirical assertion?" "Or, is will to power merely a hypothesis that Nietzsche himself rejected?" Although asked ad nauseam in the literature, the multitude of answers given to the above questions never seem to satisfy. In this book, Brian Lightbody shed light on Nietzsche's most famous "esoteric" teaching by explaining what the will to power is and what it denotes. He then demonstrates how will to power may be naturalized in an attempt to show that the doctrine is epistemically and empirically defensible. Finally, he uses will to power as a philological key of sorts to unlock Nietzsche's philosophy as a whole by showing that his ontology, epistemology, and ethics are only properly understood once a coherent naturalized rendering of will to power is produced.

The Spiritual Imagination of the Beats

The Routledge International Handbook of Charisma provides an unprecedented multidimensional and multidisciplinary comparative analysis of the phenomenon of charisma – first defined by Max Weber as the irrational bond between deified leader and submissive follower. It includes broad overviews of foundational theories and experiences of charisma and of associated key issues and themes. Contributors include 45 influential international scholars who approach the topic from different disciplinary perspectives and utilize examples from an array of historical and cultural settings. The Handbook presents up-to-date, concise, thought-provoking, innovative, and informative perspectives on charisma as it has been expressed in the past and as it continues to be manifested in the contemporary world by leaders ranging from shamans to presidents. It is designed to be essential reading for all students, researchers, and general readers interested in achieving a comprehensive understanding of the power

and potential of charismatic authority in all its varieties, subtleties, dynamics, and current and potential directions.

Nietzsche's Will to Power Naturalized

This volume addresses controversies connected to the testing of the capacities and potentials of mediums. Today we commonly associate the term "medium" with the technical communication between transmitters and receivers. Yet this term likewise applies to those who cooperate with agencies that exceed the presumed domain of the material world. Insofar as one presumes a division between distinctly opposed categories of religion and the secular, technical media tend to be associated with the secular and human (trance) mediums tend to be associated with religion after 1900. This volume concerns the ways in which the term medium still marks an overlapping of – and thus problematizes – the aforementioned division between religion and the secular, the personal and the technological. The term medium carries with it a seed of doubt that is itself inseparable from investment in the medium's power: insofar as they communicate with an "other" realm, mediums offer the hope and promise of new possibilities and improved efficiency, and thus of a better life; yet they have simultaneously been under suspicion of altering (or even inventing) the messages they communicate. It is due to this combination of promise and suspicion that "mediumism" has tended to evoke scientific, religious, and moral controversies. Thus, we can speak of a "mediumistic trial" – that is, a process in which a medium is put to the test concerning its potentials and trustworthiness. Around 1800, experts were asked if a modern secular institution would be capable of inspiring, domesticating or excluding trance mediumship. This question has stayed with us ever since, and the answers have remained inconclusive. That is why the past and present of mediumship may be asked to elucidate each other.

Routledge International Handbook of Charisma

Carnival has been described as one of the foundational elements of European culture, bearing an emblematic and iconic status as the festive phenomenon par excellence. Its origins are partly obscure, but its stratified and complex history, rich symbolic diversity, and sundry social configurations make it an exceptional object of cultural analysis. The product of more than 12 years of research, this book is the first comparative historical anthropology of popular European Carnival in the English language, with a focus on its symbolic, religious, and political dimensions and transformations throughout the centuries. It builds on a variety of theories of social change and social structures, questioning existing assumptions about what folklore is and how cultural gaps and differences take shape and reproduce through ritual forms of collective action. It also challenges recent interpretations about the performative and political dimension of European festive culture, especially in its carnivalesque declension. While presenting and exploring the most important features and characteristics of European pre-modern Carnival and discussing its origins and developments, this thorough study offers fresh evidence and up-to-date analyses about its transversal and long-lasting significance in European societies.

Mediality on Trial

Sciamanesimo (o sciamanesimo), ovvero uno dei modi di pensare e dire l'alterità: così si può riassumere la tendenza di studio affacciata negli ultimi decenni volta a decostruire una delle categorie più ampie e complesse dell'antropologia e degli studi storico-religiosi. Il volume, immettendosi in questo filone di ricerca, si concentra soprattutto sulle modalità di rappresentazione del mondo e dell'alterità secondo tratti o caratteristiche riconosciuti di volta in volta come "sciamanici", cercando di misurare anche l'utilizzo e la permanenza della categoria in campi disciplinari e accademici diversificati eppure non del tutto privi di profonde e spesso oscure connessioni. La declinazione fra "sciamanesimo", al singolare, e "sciamanesimi" come pluralità di approcci e di sguardi, dunque, già in parte percorsa da altre ricerche prima di quelle qui presentate, vuole soprattutto mettere in luce l'uso e l'abuso del termine nei campi di studio che si sono appropriati di tale "etichetta". I saggi qui raccolti hanno l'obiettivo di contestualizzare e analizzare le opere e il pensiero di alcuni studiosi del XX secolo che hanno contribuito all'affermazione del termine e del relativo concetto in ambiti piuttosto diversificati del sapere scientifico-accademico. Il volume ha un taglio profondamente e convintamente interdisciplinare e raccoglie saggi di storici delle religioni, storici del cristianesimo, antropologi e linguisti. Un ambito di ricerca come quello "sciamanico", in virtù dei molteplici campi di ricerca che ha lambito e/o attraversato, implica, oggi più che mai, una sinergia di competenze e approcci specialistici che siano al tempo stesso capaci di scommettere sull'imprescindibilità del confronto intellettuale e dell'interazione scientifica.

Rituality and Social (Dis)Order

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Sciamanesimo e sciamanesimi

Esito di un lungo e tortuoso percorso di ricerca, *Storia notturna* è il capolavoro che Carlo Ginzburg ha consacrato al tentativo di spiegare la genesi storica dello stereotipo del sabba stregonesco nella forma in cui questo si cristallizzò, tra la fine del XIV e l'inizio del XVI secolo, durante i processi inquisitoriali contro uomini e donne accusati di stregoneria. Ciò che rende questa opera straordinaria è il fatto che lo studio del sabba venga affrontato con strumenti di tipo storiografico e, al contempo, con strumenti morfologici, a partire dallo studio di miti e riti provenienti da un vastissimo numero di culture sparse nello spazio e nel tempo. Insieme a un saggio retrospettivo di Ginzburg, il volume raccoglie interventi di studiosi di varie discipline: ebraistica, storia del cristianesimo, storia delle religioni, filosofia. Gli studi qui raccolti testimoniano la persistente fecondità delle domande poste da *Storia notturna*, anche in campi meno segnati dal vasto dibattito internazionale che, da trent'anni, la riguarda. Completa il volume la bibliografia integrale degli scritti di Carlo Ginzburg.

—Yáď Ĩ‡ ,6'

The generation and exchange of knowledge plays a prominent role in Mediterranean and European cultural and religious history. Relations between master and disciples and between teachers and students are especially significant in this context. This volume - with contributions from the disciplines of classical studies, Arabic studies, Jewish studies, theology, religious science, educational science, psychology, and literary and cultural studies - offers a selection of possible perspectives and approaches to this topic. It presents roles, models and concepts of master/follower relationships within different religions, religious or para-religious movements and communities and their milieus as well as intellectual forms of association from Ancient Greece to the present day. The contributions deal for example with terminologies and narratives, teaching and leadership concepts, forms of presentation of the self and others, strategies in the construction of authority and the different effects of charisma.

Streghe, sciamani, visionari

Bajo el nombre de “perspectivismo amerindio” se han popularizado tanto el multinaturalismo del antropólogo brasileiro Eduardo Viveiros de Castro como el animismo del francés Philippe Descola. La última versión de Viveiros, la ya anacrónica y deleuziana antropología pos-estructural, ha ganado la adhesión de Bruno Latour, el influyente creador de la polémica Teoría del Actor-Red. Los perspectivitas, a los que se ha sumado poco más de un par de antropólogos heterodoxos de Estados Unidos e Inglaterra, se jactan hoy de impulsar una teoría que ha puesto toda la epistemología de Occidente al borde de la obsolescencia. Este libro pone a la luz las fallas que atraviesan los modelos teóricos del perspectivismo y los malentendidos que afectan a su apropiación de conceptos científicos y matemáticos que no se han acabado de comprender. En un hipertexto que integra las fuentes originales relevantes, la crítica que aquí se plantea pone también en foco los presuntos fundamentos de la filosofía rizomática, con énfasis en su fallido concepto de multiplicidad.

Meister und Schüler in Geschichte und Gegenwart

Imagine the forest. As darkness falls, the somber beeches disappear in misty twilight and shadows seem to gather under their branches. Far away, the blackbird's call tells of the coming of the night. The birds cease their singing, silence descends, soon the beasts of the night will make their appearance. Between tangled roots, hidden by nettles and brambles, the earth seems to ripple. A few humps of earth seem to emerge from the ground. They are the last traces of burial mounds, of mounds, which were tall and high 2500 years ago. Many of them have disappeared, hidden by tangled roots of beech and oak, ploughed flat by careless farmers, others again show caved-in tops where grave robbers have looted the central chamber. The locals shun these hills. There are tales that strange fires can be seen glowing on the mounds, and that on spooky nights, great armed warriors arise from their resting places. Then the doors to the deep are thrown open and unwary travelers have to beware of being invited into the halls of the dead and unborn. Here the kings of the deep feast and celebrate, time passes differently and strange treasures may be found. Who knows the nights when the gates are open? Who carries the primrose, the wish-flower, the strange blossom that opens the doors to the hollow hills?

Crítica de la antropología perspectivista

Publisher description

Cauldron of the Gods

Why do human beings believe in divinities? Why do some seek eternal life, while others seek escape from recurring lives? Why do the beliefs and behaviors we typically call "religious" so deeply affect the human personality and so subtly weave their way through human society? Revised and updated in this second edition, *Eight Theories of Religion* considers how these fundamental questions have engaged the most important thinkers of the modern era. Accessible, systematic, and succinct, the text examines the classic interpretations of religion advanced by theorists who have left a major imprint on the intellectual culture of the twentieth century. The second edition features a new chapter on Max Weber, a revised introduction, and a revised, expanded conclusion that traces the paths of further inquiry and interpretation traveled by theorists in the most recent decades. *Eight Theories of Religion, Second Edition*, begins with Edward Burnett Tylor and James Frazer--two Victorian pioneers in anthropology and the comparative study of religion. It then considers the great "reductionist" approaches of Sigmund Freud, Emile Durkheim, and Karl Marx, all of whom have exercised wide influence up to the present day. The discussion goes on to examine the leading challenges to reductionism as articulated by sociologist Max Weber (new to this edition) and Romanian-American comparativist Mircea Eliade. Finally, it explores the newer methods and ideas arising from the African field studies of ethnographer E. E. Evans-Pritchard and the interpretive anthropology of Clifford Geertz. Each chapter offers biographical background, theoretical exposition, conceptual analysis, and critical assessment. This common format allows for close comparison and careful evaluation throughout. Ideal for use as a supplementary text in introductory religion courses or as the central text in sociology of religion and courses centered on the explanation and interpretation of religion, *Eight Theories of Religion, Second Edition*, offers an illuminating treatment of this controversial and fascinating subject.

The Beauty of the Primitive

In this book, three leading scholars, representing different branches of the humanities, dwell on the current status of shamanic practices and conceptions of the soul, both as 'etic' scholarly categories in historical research and as foci of spiritual revitalization among the indigenous populations of post-Soviet Siberia.

Eight Theories of Religion

A free open access ebook is available upon publication. Learn more at www.luminosoa.org. What can anthropological thinking contribute to the study of revolutions? The first book-length attempt to develop an anthropological approach to revolutions, *Anthropologies of Revolution* proposes that revolutions should be seen as concerted attempts to radically reconstitute the worlds people inhabit. Viewing revolutions as all-embracing, world-creating projects, the authors ask readers to move beyond the idea of revolutions as acts of violent political rupture, and instead view them as processes of societal transformation that penetrate deeply into the fabric of people's lives, unfolding and refolding the coordinates of human existence.

Horizons of Shamanism

In this highly original and much-anticipated ethnography, Anna Tsing challenges not only anthropologists and feminists but all those who study culture to reconsider some of their dearest assumptions. By choosing to locate her study among Meratus Dayaks, a marginal and marginalized group in the deep rainforest of South Kalimantan, Indonesia, Tsing deliberately sets into motion the familiar and stubborn urban fantasies of self and other. Unusual encounters with her remarkably creative and unconventional Meratus friends and teachers, however, provide the opportunity to rethink notions of tradition, community, culture, power, and gender--and the doing of anthropology. Tsing's masterful weaving of ethnography and theory, as well as her humor and lucidity, allow for an extraordinary reading experience for students, scholars, and anyone interested in the complexities of culture. Engaging Meratus in wider conversations involving Indonesian bureaucrats, family planners, experts in international development, Javanese soldiers, American and French feminists, Asian-Americans, right-to-life advocates, and Western intellectuals, Tsing looks not for consensus and coherence in Meratus culture but rather allows individual Meratus men and women to return our gaze. Bearing the

fruit from the lively contemporary conversations between anthropology and cultural studies, In the Realm of the Diamond Queen will prove to be a model for thinking and writing about gender, power, and the politics of identity.

Anthropologies of Revolution

"There is hardly any book equal to Ways of Thinking of Eastern Peoples in terms of its thorough and systematic presentation of the intricate thought patterns of Asian peoples. The book not only is an essential reference for the student of Asian culture, but also for students of philosophy, religion, anthropology, and art, as it is an excellent source for aiding the student in gaining a deeper understanding of each facet of Oriental thought." --Isshi Yamada, Northwestern University "The clearest discussion and analysis of these complex subjects that I have found. My advanced undergraduate students find this work to be 'stimulating', 'challenging' and comprehensible.' The organization of the text enhances the usefulness of this volume, but it is the high quality of the scholarship that makes Ways of Thinking a most valuable addition to Asian studies and to the academic training of upper division students."

--Ann B. Radwan, University of North Florida "I find Ways of thinking a most provocative source for exploring with my students certain basic themes in Eastern religion and culture. Used carefully, it is a most stimulating and effective source for tapping Eastern 'ways' at a fundamental level of inquiry."

--Wilbur M. Fridell, University of California, Santa Barbara

In the Realm of the Diamond Queen

The Tibetan Gesar epic has known countless retellings, translations, and academic studies. The Many Faces of Ling Gesar, presents its historical, cultural, and literary aspects for the first time in a single volume for both general readers and specialists.

Who Should Know What?

Weaving together philosophical, historical, legal, scientific and personal viewpoints, this book gives a rich sample of the vast web which makes up our cultural, spiritual and social diversity. The volume highlights the central importance of cultural and spiritual values in the appreciation and preservation of all life and argues that these values give us a true reflection of worth. It demonstrates how many cultures see Nature as an extension of society, and how sensitive stewardship is an integral part of existence. The book covers: language and how cognition and speech encode indigenous knowledge systems are critical for preservation of diversity; the complex issue of indigenous people and the problems of preserving their relationships both with and within their societies; voices of the world - expressions of concern and disquiet over the declining world diversity; holistic health practices where environment and diet are integrated into indigenous medical health systems; the importance of developing effective intellectual property rights and territorial and land rights to enhance and maintain local control. This book arose out of the Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA), a massive review of current knowledge in the broad field of biological diversity, commissioned by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

Ways of Thinking of Eastern Peoples

A rethinking of popular political movements, this book looks at new, emerging, mass visions and analyses their impact and potential in new ways.

The Many Faces of King Gesar

"Extraordinarily timely and useful. As China emerges as an economic and political world power that seems to have done away with religion, in fact it is witnessing a religious revival. The thoughtful essays in this book show both the historical conflicts between state authorities and religious movements and the contemporary encounters that are shaping China's future. I am aware of no other book that covers so much ground and can be used so well as an introduction to this important field." —Peter van der Veer, University of Utrecht

Cultural and Spiritual Values of Biodiversity

DIVArgues that previous accounts of religious and political activism in the Native American community fail to account for the variety of positions held by this community./div

Power & Its Disguises

In *The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure*, Victor Turner examines rituals of the Ndembu in Zambia and develops his now-famous concept of "Communitas." He characterizes it as an absolute inter-human relation beyond any form of structure. The *Ritual Process* has acquired the status of a small classic since these lectures were first published in 1969. Turner demonstrates how the analysis of ritual behavior and symbolism may be used as a key to understanding social structure and processes. He extends Van Gennep's notion of the "liminal phase" of rites of passage to a more general level, and applies it to gain understanding of a wide range of social phenomena. Once thought to be the "vestigial" organs of social conservatism, rituals are now seen as arenas in which social change may emerge and be absorbed into social practice. As Roger Abrahams writes in his foreword to the revised edition: "Turner argued from specific field data. His special eloquence resided in his ability to lay open a sub-Saharan African system of belief and practice in terms that took the reader beyond the exotic features of the group among whom he carried out his fieldwork, translating his experience into the terms of contemporary Western perceptions. Reflecting Turner's range of intellectual interests, the book emerged as exceptional and eccentric in many ways: yet it achieved its place within the intellectual world because it so successfully synthesized continental theory with the practices of ethnographic reports."

Understanding Cults and New Age Religions

Chinese Religiosities