



The Anthropology of Ignorance

An Ethnographic Approach

Edited by Casey High, Ann H. Kelly and Jonathan Mair

The question of ignorance occupies a central place in anthropological theory and practice. This volume argues that the concept of ignorance has largely been pursued as the opposite of knowledge or even its obverse. Though they cover wide empirical ground - from clients of a fertility treatment center in New York to families grappling with suicide in Greenland - contributors share a commitment to understanding the concept as a productive, social practice. Ultimately, The Anthropology of Ignorance asks whether an academic commitment to knowledge can be squared with lived significance of ignorance and how taking it seriously might alter anthropological research practices.

"The Anthropology of Ignorance is an ambitious project that addresses the inattention to stances of ignorance or efforts at unknowing which anthropologists may encounter in their ethnographic subjects but which they patch over by making the latter's every gesture and word overly meaningful, or rather too knowing. The book is timely as it is one of the first to decisively take on a persistent element of the world, particularly in its knowledge systems and everyday lives. This is one of only a few books decisively addressing the issue of ignorance in social life and scholarship." - Naveeda Khan, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University

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