

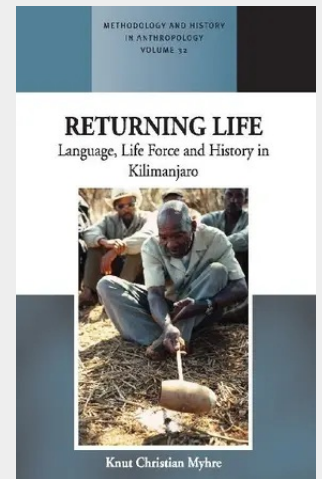
Myhre

Returning Life

Language, Life Force and History in Kilimanjaro

A group of Chagga-speaking men descend the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro to butcher animals and pour milk, beer, and blood on the ground, requesting rain for their continued existence. *Returning Life* explores how this event engages activities where life force is transferred and transformed to afford and affect beings of different kinds. Historical sources demonstrate how the phenomenon of life force encompasses coffee cash-cropping, Catholic Christianity, and colonial and post-colonial rule, and features in cognate languages from throughout the area. As this vivid ethnography explores how life projects through beings of different kinds, it brings to life concepts and practices that extend through time and space, transcending established analytics.

The book centers on vernacular concepts and claims to investigate how 'life' is an effect of transfers and transformations of 'life force' that occur through parts of persons, houses, livestock, and crops in the activity of 'dwelling' and that afford and constitute the existence of beings of different kinds. It is an historical ethnography that combines contemporary fieldwork material with historical sources in multiple languages to investigate changes and continuities in these vernacular concepts and claims, and their attendant practices. It is a language-oriented ethnography that draws on Ludwig Wittgenstein's later philosophy to explore how vernacular concepts and claims entail, entangle, and engage things and activities in a manner that avert questions of symbolisation and signification. It attends to communication and interaction across ethnic, social, cultural, and national divides, and explores how cognate notions in different languages and people's multilingual capabilities combine to constitute a horizon of meaning that does not coincide with established analytics, such as 'culture' and 'society'.



150,20 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781785336652

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-1-78533-665-2

Verlag: Berghahn Books

Erscheinungstermin: 29.12.2017

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 1. Auflage 2017

Serie: Methodology & History in Anthropology

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 641 g

Seiten: 336

Format (B x H): 157 x 235 mm

