

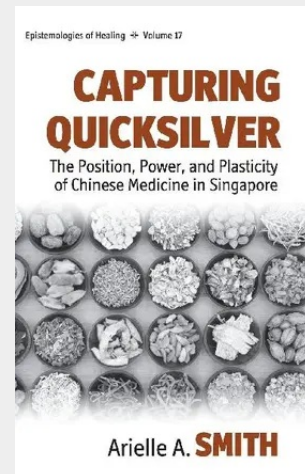
Smith

Capturing Quicksilver

The Position, Power, and Plasticity of Chinese Medicine in Singapore

Since the turn of the century Singapore has sustained a reputation for both austere governance and cutting-edge biomedical facilities and research. Seeking to emphasize Singapore's capacity for "modern medicine" and strengthen their burgeoning biopharmaceutical industry, this image has explicitly excluded Chinese medicine – despite its tremendous popularity amongst Singaporeans from all walks of life, and particularly amongst Singapore's ethnic Chinese majority. This book examines the use and practice of Chinese medicine in Singapore, especially in everyday life, and contributes to anthropological debates regarding the post-colonial intersection of knowledge, identity, and governmentality, and to transnational studies of Chinese medicine as a permeable, plural, and fluid practice.

Capturing Quicksilver considers the use, promotion, and legislation of Chinese medicine in Singapore in relation to government policies favoring international investment, urban redevelopment, healthcare regulation, "multiracial" nationalism, and the management of history and heritage. Theoretically and methodologically developed within medical anthropology, it explores embodied experience and individual and group creativity vis-à-vis state agendas.



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