Human Nature and Social Life

What distinguishes humans from nonhuman ‘others’? And how do these distinctions shape human sociality and the ways that humans relate to their others? Human Nature and Social Life brings together a collection of articles by prominent anthropologists to address these questions. The articles show how the fundamentally social nature of humans results in an extension of sociality to virtual, semiotic-material and nonhuman spheres, with humans thus becoming part of ‘extended socialities’. However, as the book’s contributors demonstrate, human distinctness significantly bears upon these extended socialities and the manner in which humans partake in them. Taking an ethnographic approach to its subject, this book demonstrates the continued value of studying the specificities of the human condition, and sets itself as a counterweight to current refutations of human exceptionalism.

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In honour of Signe Howell
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Acknowledgements

This book grew out of a seminar held in honour of Professor Signe Howell in 2012. Colleagues, students and friends of Signe Howell gathered at The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo to celebrate her work and achievements, and also to engage with her contributions to issues at the core of social anthropology. We would like to thank all those who contributed to making the seminar such a great event, which include many of those contributing to this book, and also Lotte Danielsen, Ingjerd Hoëm, Marit Melhuus, Olaf Smedal and Sidsel Roaldkvam. We would also like to thank the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo and The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters for being helpful in arranging the seminar. The seminar and the work of putting this book together were funded by the University of Oslo and Academy of Finland (research grant 276848).

The production of this book could not have been done without the helpful staff at Cambridge University Press. We would like to extend our thanks to Andrew Winnard for taking on this project and to Sam Shaw, Bethany Johnson, Divya Mathesh at SPi Global and Fred Goykhman at PETT Fox, Inc. for guiding us through the last stages. Robert Swanson should also be thanked for indexing the book. We also thank the two anonymous reviewers for their valuable and constructive feedback.

All the contributors to this book also deserve an abundance of thanks for sticking with the project.

Last but not least, every one of us would like to thank Signe for being such a good colleague, supervisor, collaborator and above all a good friend.