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978-0-521-59389-2 - Property Relations: Renewing the Anthropological Tradition

Edited by C. M. Hann

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Property links the economic, the political and the jural dimensions of social life. Anthropologists have traditionally argued that property relations are not relations between people and things, but social relations between people. Building on this definition and extending it to take more account of cultural diversity, the contributors to this volume emphasize the political and economic embeddedness of property relations. The contents include accounts of sharing among hunter-gatherers in Africa and ecological knowledge among reindeer herders in Siberia; 'inclusive' versus 'exclusive' property relations and rights of disposal among Melanesians; legal concepts of property and its transmission in England and Japan, the two island pioneers of industrial society; land appropriation from native Americans; property redistribution following recent social and political upheaval in Cyprus and Romania; the ability of English civil law to ensure adequate protection of the environment; and the devolution of property in modern Britain, with particular reference to changing family structures and unsustainable demands on public welfare provision.

Criticizing both the dominant Western liberal paradigm of property relations and its Marxist-Leninist counterpart, Professor Hann argues that a broader idea of property should once again become an integrating concept in anthropology and the social sciences. The collection will be of particular interest to economic anthropologists, who have conducted many studies of exchange, production and consumption, but have rather neglected property. It will also appeal to wider audiences: the basic issues of ownership, control and power are central to the lives of all citizens in all forms of society.

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*Renewing the anthropological tradition*

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*Edited by*

**C. M. Hann**

*University of Kent at Canterbury*



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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

---

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
1 Introduction: the embeddedness of property C. M. HANN	1
2 ‘Sharing is not a form of exchange’: an analysis of property- sharing in immediate-return hunter-gatherer societies JAMES WOODBURN	48
3 Property as a way of knowing on Evenki lands in Arctic Siberia DAVID G. ANDERSON	64
4 Property and social relations in Melanesian anthropology JAMES G. CARRIER	85
5 The mystery of property: inheritance and industrialization in England and Japan ALAN MACFARLANE	104
6 An unsettled frontier: property, blood and US federal policy PAULA L. WAGONER	124
7 Property values: ownership, legitimacy and land markets in Northern Cyprus JULIE SCOTT	142
8 Property and power in Transylvania’s decollectivization KATHERINE VERDERY	160
9 Property rights, regulation and environmental protection: some Anglo-Romanian contrasts WILLIAM HOWARTH	181
10 Dowry and the rights of women to property JACK GOODY	201
	vii

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii Contents

11 Divisions of interest and languages of ownership	
MARILYN STRATHERN	214
<i>Notes</i>	233
<i>Bibliography</i>	254
<i>Index</i>	271

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

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CMH

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