

Entangled Lives

In this book the authors engage with three questions about the past: How can we rethink human histories by including animals and plants? How can we overcome nationally territorialised narratives? And how can we balance academic history-writing and indigenous understandings of history? They make a tentative foray into the connections between these questions. Each has, in recent years, been subject to wide-ranging scholarly debate, but rarely in combination – and never for the region that they focus on.

Entangled Lives explores these questions for a large region that historians seldom choose as their unit of enquiry: the Eastern Himalayan Triangle. Five countries administer the Triangle: India, Myanmar/Burma, Bangladesh, Bhutan and China. For most historians it has very low visibility, so they marginalise or ignore it in their accounts of the past. As a result, it appears as a remote expanse without historical dynamism or relevance to wider processes. But grant it a central role and we learn about dynamic connections and mobile actors that force us to reassess its significance vis-à-vis the processes, territorial units and personalities that historians habitually foreground.

The Triangle's nonhuman actors are important because they have always co-designed human societies, just as humans have co-designed nonhuman lives. This book looks at these interactions over a wide span of time, from 'deep history' to the present. It is a case study in environmental history, multispecies history, more-than-human history, posthumanism and environmental humanities. It aims to advance histories of humans and nonhumans together and show the enduring intimacy of all sentient beings.

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Both of them jointly published the monograph *The Camera as Witness: A Social History of Mizoram, Northeast India* with the Press in 2015.

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Human–Animal–Plant Histories of
the Eastern Himalayan Triangle

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