The Cambridge Handbook of Kinship

Presenting twenty-nine original chapters – each written by an expert in the field – this handbook examines the history of kinship theory and the directions in which it has moved over the past few years. Using examples from across the globe (Africa, India, South America, Malaysia, Asia, the Pacific, Europe, and North America), this handbook highlights the power of kinship theory to address questions of broad anthropological significance. How have recent advances in reproductive medicine fundamentally altered our understanding of biological properties? How has globalization brought in its wake new ways of imagining human relatedness? What might recent shifts in state welfare policies tell us about those relations of power that define the difference between “functional” versus “dysfunctional” families? Addressing these and many other timely concerns, this volume presents the results of cutting-edge research and demonstrates that the study of kinship is likely to remain at the core of anthropological inquiry.

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Genuinely broad in scope, each handbook in this series provides a complete state-of-the-field overview of a subdiscipline or major topic of anthropological study and research. Grouped into broad thematic areas, the chapters in each volume encompass the most important issues and themes within each subject, offering a coherent picture of the latest theories and findings. Together, the volumes will build into an integrated overview of the discipline in its entirety.
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