Ethnographies of Power


Published by Wits University Press

Veriava, Ahmed, et al.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/97950.

⇒ For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/97950

🔗 For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=3202247
A rich reservoir of concepts critical in making sense of, critiquing and building our social world.
— Asanda Benya is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Cape Town

Gillian Hart has pioneered a distinctive school of critical ethnography, exemplified by these exciting explorations of South Africa and beyond. This collection of ethnographic studies advances Hart’s theories of the intertwining of global and local processes and the articulation of material, cultural and political relations.
— Michael Burawoy is Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, and the author of *Manufacturing Consent, The Politics of Production and Public Sociology*

Gillian Hart is an internationally recognised thinker in human geography, African studies, political economy and development studies. She has conducted research across the globe, from South East Asia, South Africa to North America. Her intellectual curiosities are informed by Marxist dialectics, Gramscian hegemony and Stuart Hall’s ‘lived experience’. Her journeys, both physical and intellectual, are instructive in many ways – not least, her commitment to working with concepts as powerful weapons that might expose the contradictions sown by authoritarian power everywhere.

This book honours Hart by continuing her praxis of critical ethnography as pedagogy for social change in a diverse range of new contexts. By refining and reworking concepts, the contributors demonstrate how ethnography is radicalised: how theory and lived experiences can be brought together to illuminate and challenge the forces that mark an unequal world.

In this time of rampant inequality, imperial-capitalist plunder, violence and ecocide, and when radical concepts and ideas drawn from the past seem inadequate to deal with burning issues in the present and the future, how do researchers and students of ethnographic work decide what concepts to work with or renew to expand social justice? This is the intervention *Ethnographies of Power* makes. It offers activists and scholars engaged in these questions a rich toolkit of ideas that can meaningfully contribute to social and environmental change in real world struggles.

**Sharad Chari** is Associate Professor of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley, and Research Associate at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. **Mark Hunter** is Professor of Human Geography at the University of Toronto, Scarborough. **Melanie Samson** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg.