Exploring Materiality and Connectivity in Anthropology and Beyond provides a new look at the old anthropological concern with materiality and connectivity. It understands materiality not as defined property of some-thing, nor does it take connectivity as merely a relation between discrete entities. It rather sees them as two interrelated modes in which an entity is becoming in the world. The question at stake is how these two modes of becoming relate and fold into each other.

The four-year research process that led to this book included workshops dedicated to practical, hands-on exercises in working with things. A series of installations emerged, which served as artistic-academic interventions during the final symposium and are featured alongside the other academic contributions to this volume.

As interrelated modes of becoming, materiality and connectivity make it necessary to coalesce things and ties into thing-ties — an insight toward which the chapters and interventions came from different sides. Throughout the pages of this volume, we invite the reader to travel beyond imaginaries of a universe of separate planets united by connections, and to venture instead into the thicket of thing-ties in which we live.

Philipp Schorch is Professor of Museum Anthropology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich.

Martin Saxer leads the ERC project ‘Remoteness and Connectivity: Highland Asia in the World’ at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich.

Marlen Elders is a researcher on the ‘Remoteness & Connectivity’ project at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich.