

Whose Development?: An Ethnography of Aid

By Emma Crewe, Elizabeth Harrison



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This book is an ethnography of development in practice. It builds on recent work in the anthropology of development in its examination of the evolution and persistence of a number of key ideas about gender, technology and race. It explores how these are rooted in both material practices and ideologies, notably the Enlightenment and colonialism, but goes beyond previous studies which have tended to focus mainly on the apparently monolithic power of the developers. The authors argue for a more nuanced account of power through analysis of the relationship between individual agency and structural constraint. Their fascinating study shows how a simple dichotomy between "us," the developers, and "them," the victims of development, misconstrues the nature of the proccesses involved.

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Editorial Review

Review

'A fine-grained ethnography of aid... showing well the context sensitivity of all participants in development projects and their multiple identities and shifting roles.' Frederique Apffel-Marglin, Smith College, Massachusetts 'This book moves beyond the conventional deconstruction of development and stimulates new, relational ways of thinking about it.' Cecile Jackson, University of East Anglia 'A rich picture of the complexities and power relations involved in foreign aid.' Michael Edwards, NGO Division, World Bank

About the Author

Emma Crewe is a principal investigator in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at SOAS, University of London. She is the author of several books on politics and the parliamentary system.

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