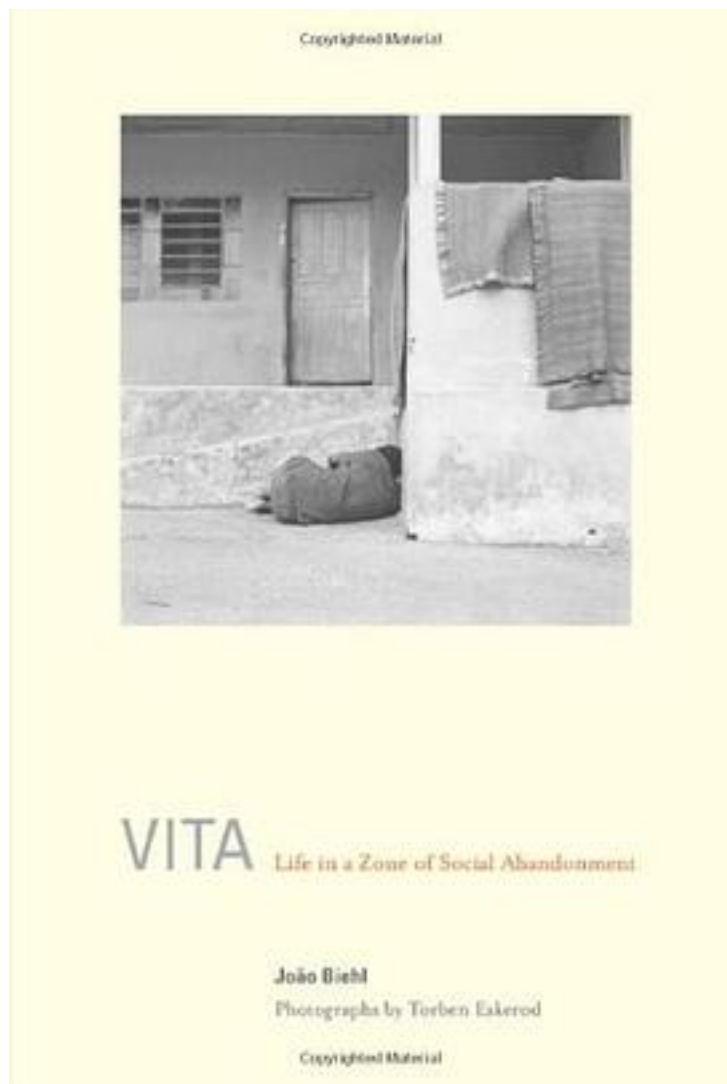


Vita



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著者:João Biehl

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Zones of social abandonment are emerging everywhere in Brazil's big cities—places like Vita, where the unwanted, the mentally ill, the sick, and the homeless are left to die. This haunting, unforgettable story centers on a young woman named Catarina, increasingly paralyzed and said to be mad, living out her time at Vita. Anthropologist João Biehl leads a detective-like journey to know Catarina; to unravel the cryptic, poetic words that are part of the “dictionary” she is compiling; and to trace the complex network of family, medicine, state, and economy in which her abandonment and pathology took form.

As Biehl painstakingly relates Catarina's words to a vanished world and elucidates her condition, we learn of subjectivities unmade and remade under economic pressures, pharmaceuticals as moral technologies, a public common sense that lets the unsound and unproductive die, and anthropology's unique power to work through these juxtaposed fields. Vita's methodological innovations, bold fieldwork, and rigorous social theory make it an essential reading for anyone who is grappling with how to understand the conditions of life, thought and ethics in the contemporary world.

作者介绍:

João Biehl is Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University. His website is www.joaobiehl.net. Torben Eskerod is an artist and works as a freelance photographer in Copenhagen.

目录: Introduction: “Dead Alive, Dead Outside, Alive Inside”

PART ONE. VITA

A Zone of Social Abandonment

Brazil

Citizenship

PART TWO. CATARINA AND THE ALPHABET

The Life of the Mind

A Society of Bodies

Inequality

Ex-Human

The House and the Animal

“Love is the illusion of the abandoned”

Social Psychosis

An Illness of Time

God, Sex, and Agency

PART THREE. THE MEDICAL ARCHIVE

Public Psychiatry

Her Life as a Typical Patient

Democratization and the Right to Health

Economic Change and Mental Suffering

Medical Science

End of a Life

Voices

Care and Exclusion

Migration and Model Policies

Women, Poverty, and Social Death

“I am like this because of life”

The Sense of Symptoms

Pharmaceutical Being
PART FOUR. THE FAMILY

Ties
Ataxia
Her House
Brothers
Children, In-Laws, and the Ex-Husband
Adoptive Parents
"To want my body as a medication, my body"

Everyday Violence
PART FIVE. BIOLOGY AND ETHICS

Pain
Human Rights
Value Systems
Gene Expression and Social Abandonment
Family Tree
A Genetic Population
A Lost Chance

PART SIX. THE DICTIONARY

“Underneath was this, which I do not attempt to name”

Book I
Book II
Book III
Book IV
Book V
Book VI
Book VII
Book VIII
Book IX
Book X
Book XI
Book XII
Book XIII
Book XIV
Book XV
Book XVI
Book XVII
Book XVIII
Book XIX

Conclusion: “A way to the words”

Postscript: “I am part of the origins, not just of language, but of people”

Acknowledgments

Notes

Bibliography

Index

• • • • • ([收起](#))

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出身神學與哲學，再踏入人類學領域的朱歐．畢尤（João Biehl），長期進行全球健康議題的書寫。他的研究一向關注在最黑暗的人性角落裡，人們奮鬥掙扎求生存活的過程與意...

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