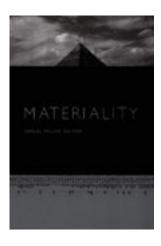
Materiality



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Throughout history and across social and cultural contexts, most systems of belief-whether religious or secular - have ascribed wisdom to those who see reality as that which transcends the merely material. Yet, as the studies collected here show, the immaterial is not easily separated from the material. Humans are defined, to an extraordinary degree, by their expressions of immaterial ideals through material forms. The essays in "Materiality" explore varied manifestations of materiality from ancient times to the present. In assessing the fundamental role of materiality in shaping humanity, they signal the need to de-center the social within social anthropology in order to make room for the material. Considering topics as seemingly diverse as theology, technology, finance, and art, the contributors - most of whom are anthropologists - examine the many different ways in which materiality has been understood and the consequences of these differences. Their case-studies show that the latest forms of financial trading instruments can be compared with the oldest ideals of ancient Egypt, that the promise of software can be compared with an age-old desire for an unmediated relationship to divinity. Whether focusing on the theology of Islamic banking; Australian Aboriginal art; derivatives trading in Japan; or textiles which respond directly to their environment, each essay adds depth and nuance to the

project that Materiality advances: a profound acknowledgment and rethinking of one of the most basic properties of being human. Contributors include Matthew Engelke, Webb Keane, Susanne Kuchler, Bill Maurer, Lynn Meskell, Daniel Miller, Hirokazu Miyazaki, Fred Myers, Christopher Pinney, Michael Rowlands, and Nigel Thrift. Daniel Miller is Professor of Anthropology at University College London. He is the author of many books including "The Sari" (with Mukulika Banerjee); "Capitalism: An Ethnographic Approach"; "A Theory of Shopping"; and "The Internet: An Ethnographic Approach" (with Don Slater). He is the editor, most recently, of "Home Possessions: Material Culture behind Closed Doors and Car Cultures".

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乏善可陈。
Daniel Miller, Lynn Meskell, Webb Keane和Christopher Pinney的四篇写得最好
在social art history/cultural 在social art history/cultural anthropology以及理论研究当道的现今学术界,物质性往往被忽略甚至完全遗忘。这本 书以及Gell的art and agency都值得一读。换一种思考方式。
书评

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