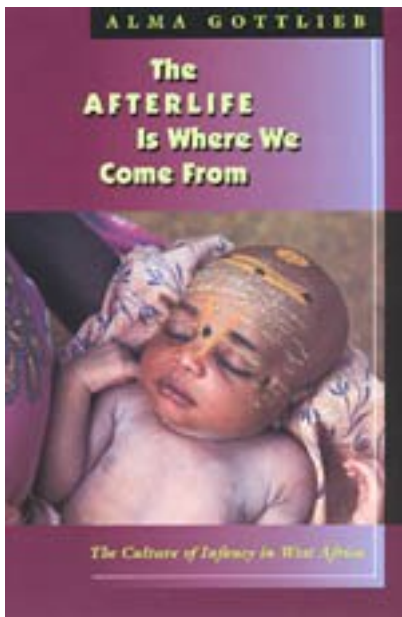


# The Afterlife is Where We Come from



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著者:Gottlieb, Alma

出版者:University of Chicago Press

出版时间:2004-1

装帧:Pap

isbn:9780226305028

When a new baby arrives among the Beng people of West Africa, they see it not as being born, but as being reincarnated after a rich life in a previous world. Far from being a tabula rasa, a Beng infant is thought to begin its life filled with spiritual knowledge. How do these beliefs affect the way the Beng rear their children?

In this unique and engaging ethnography of babies, Alma Gottlieb explores how religious ideology affects every aspect of Beng childrearing practices--from bathing infants to protecting them from disease to teaching them how to crawl and walk--and how widespread poverty limits these practices. A mother of two, Gottlieb includes moving discussions of how her experiences among the Beng changed the way she saw her own parenting. Throughout the book she also draws telling comparisons between Beng and Euro-American parenting, bringing home just how deeply culture matters to

the way we all rear our children.

All parents and anyone interested in the place of culture in the lives of infants, and vice versa, will enjoy "The Afterlife Is Where We Come From."

"This wonderfully reflective text should provide the impetus for formulating research possibilities about infancy and toddlerhood for this century." -- Caren J. Frost, "Medical Anthropology Quarterly" "Alma Gottlieb's careful and thought-provoking account of infancy sheds spectacular light upon a much neglected topic. . . . [It] makes a strong case for the central place of babies in anthropological accounts of religion. Gottlieb's remarkably rich account, delivered after a long and reflective period of gestation, deserves a wide audience across a range of disciplines."--Anthony Simpson, "Critique of Anthropology"

作者介绍:

Alma Gottlieb is a Professor of Anthropology in University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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标签

人类学

modernity

英文原版

童年研究

life-course

anthropology

West

Reproductive

# 评论

看完还是有点失望，原先还寄希望作者能发展出观察解读婴儿世界的新方法论或视角，但实际上却还是围绕成人的儿童观念展开讨论。全书的核心大概就是在Beng族的特定社会情境下讲述这群人独特的儿童观，论证跨文化儿童观的不一致，个案经验不可复制。

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第一次将儿童归为他者的人类学田野调查，通过对比非洲being社会和北美中产阶级的育儿方式，说明育儿被文化构建。each newborn were seen as emerging not from a womb or from an unproblematic “home,” but from a culturally constructed space of prior history case, an afterlife.

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# 书评

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