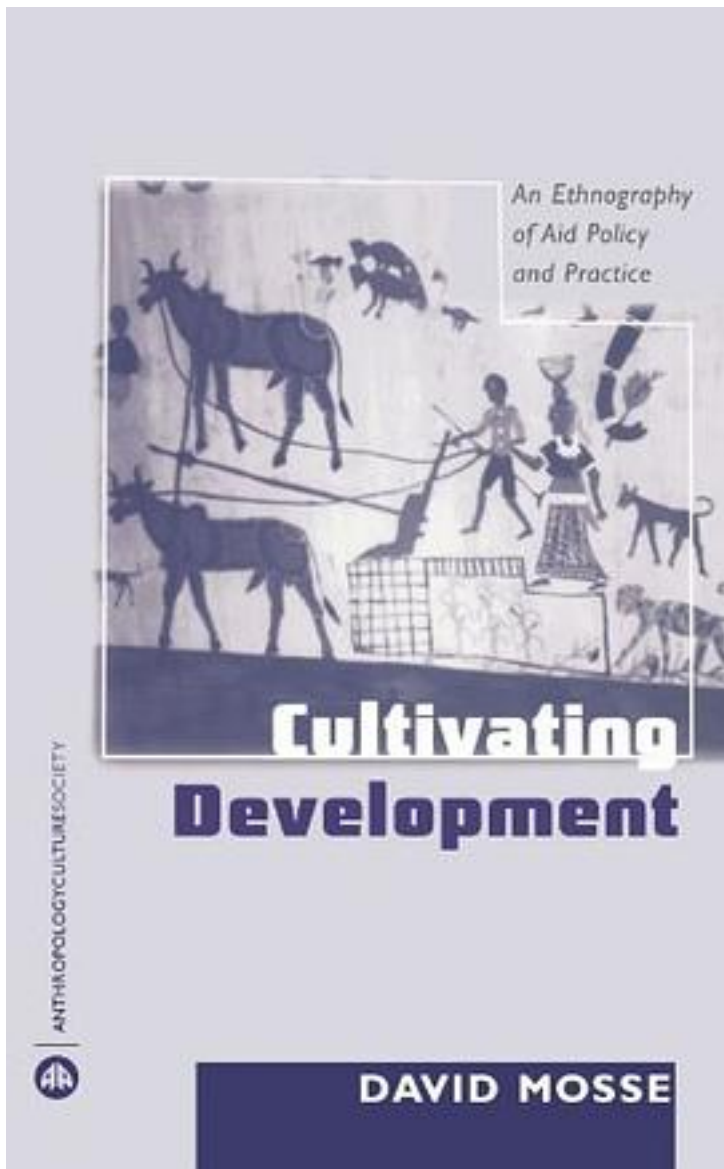


Cultivating Development



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著者:David Mosse

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'A superb book, one of those rarities that can change entire ways of thinking. David Mosse is the first social scientist in a generation who can successfully take cutting-edge insights from academic anthropology and use them to explain practical problems in development...For anyone interested in development, "Cultivating Development" is a do-not-miss experience.' Scott Guggenheim, Lead Social Scientist, The World Bank
'[Mosse's] provocative thesis challenges the received wisdom of that world and compels us to examine afresh the politics and ethics of engaging with development. Amid the profusion of literature in this field, this book stands apart as an insider's account that is consistently critical yet steadfast in respecting its subjects. Highly recommended.' Amita Baviskar, Visiting Professor, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University
Development agencies and researchers are preoccupied with policy; with exerting influence over policy, linking research to policy and with implementing policy around the world. But what if development practice is not driven by policy? Suppose that the things that make for 'good policy' - policy that legitimises and mobilises political support - in reality make it impossible to implement? By focusing in detail on the unfolding activities of a development project in western India over more than ten years, as it falls under different policy regimes, this book takes a close look at the relationship between policy and practice in development. David Mosse shows how the actions of development workers are shaped by the exigencies of organisations and the need to maintain relationships rather than by policy; but also that development actors work hardest of all to maintain coherent representations of their actions as instances of authorised policy. Raising unfamiliar questions, Mosse provides a rare self-critical reflection on practice, while refusing to endorse current post-modern dismissal of development.

作者介绍:

David Mosse is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He is author of *The Rule of Water: Statecraft, Ecology and Collective Action in South India* (Oxford University Press, 2003).

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标签

人类学

Development

Ethnography

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发展研究

发展

Latour

Knowledge

评论

这本书在出版之前还引起了很大的争议，因为书里面涉及到的很多人都跳出来指责作者，认为这本民族志诋毁了英国在印度设立的发展项目的成效。其实无情诋毁西方发达国家援助项目的作品多了去了，这本书不但写得很温柔，而且在我看来没有任何诋毁之意。从Latour的路数，它甚至不在传统意义上来解释成功与否，只是在描述一个项目的成功或失败如何通过不同行动者的互动被构建罢了。从叙述展开的丰富性上来看，这书不乏洞见（比如当地人如何通过迎合上级的标准来主张自己的利益）。但它同时也让我对Latour理论更加不满——它除了很深很深地描之外，还能干啥？而且它似乎只能去描那些“失败”了的项目，至于暂时还没有“失败”的，那就永远只能是“黑箱”了。在否认有任何独立于人们的“建构”的成功和失败的同时，这个理论的解释力也被消解了。

理论视野独树一帜，非常批判有启发。但这个路数真心两边不讨好，也不好学啊。

打破二元？好像也没做到

看得太慢了……

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