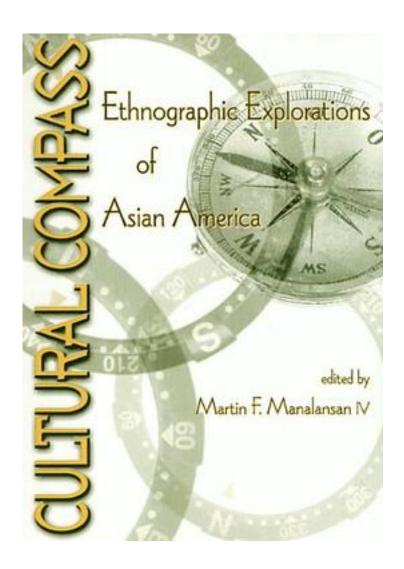
Cultural Compass



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"Cultural Compass" rewrites the space of Asian Americans. Through innovative studies

of community politics, gender, family and sexual relations, cultural events, and other sites central to the formation of ethnic and citizen identity, contributors reconfigure ethnography according to Asian American experiences in the United States. In these eleven essays, scholars in anthropology, sociology, ethnic studies, and Asian American studies reconsider traditional models for ethnographic research. Drawing upon recent theoretical discussions and methodological innovations, the contributors explore the construction and displacement of self, community, and home integral to Asian American cultural journeys in the late twentieth century. Some discuss the unique situation of doing ethnographic work 'at home' that is researching one's own ethnic group or another group within Asian America. Others draw on rich and diverse field experiences. Whether they are doing homework or fieldwork, contributors reflect on the ways that particular matters of identity gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, age play out between researchers and informants. Individual essays and the book as a whole challenge the notion of a monolithic, spatially bounded Ásian American community, pointing the way to multiple sites of political struggle, cultural critique, and social change. Martin F. Manalansan is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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