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BOUNDLESS WORLDS



An Anthropological Approach to Movement



Edited by Peter Wynn Kirby

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Where lived experience of surroundings is shifting, visceral, and immersive, interpretation of social spaces tends to be static and remote. "Space" and "place" are also often analyzed without grappling much (if at all) with the social, political, and historical roots of spatial practice. This volume embarks upon the novel strategy of focusing on movement as a way of understanding social spaces, which offers a means to get beyond biases inherent in the social science of space. Ethnographic studies of social life in settings as varied as nomadic Mongolia and island Melanesia, as distinct as contemporary Tokyo and war-torn Palestine, challenge Western assumptions about the universality of "space" and allow concrete understanding of how life plays out over different socio-cultural topographies. In a world that is becoming increasingly "bounded" in many ways - despite enormous changes wrought by technological, ideological, and other social developments - *Boundless Worlds* urges a scholarly turn, away from the purely global, toward the human dimension of social lives lived in conditions of conflict, upheaval, remapping, and improvisation through movement.

"...the collection continues in the anthropological tradition by maintaining a healthy scepticism of the many potentially universalizing concepts at the centre of the 'spatial turn', by insisting on addressing complex processes via an attention to indigenous experience and perspectives; an aim it achieves with aplomb." *Sociology*

About the Author Peter Wynn Kirby is Senior Lecturer in the Anthropology of Japan at Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK, and a research fellow at the EHESS, Paris. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge. Author of the forthcoming book *Troubled Natures: Waste, Environment, Japan*, he scrutinizes environments, including cities, with specific reference to Japan and France.