



Ritualizing on the Boundaries: Continuity and Innovation in the Tamil Diaspora

By Fred W. Clothey

Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 2015. Hardcover. Condition: New. First Ind. Ed. 261pp. For centuries and particularly since the 1830s, Tamils and other South Indians have become part of a diaspora that has scattered their identities and traditions, both real and invented, to cities around the world. In his comparative study of four Tamil resettlements, senior scholar Fred W. Clothey examines the rituals that have traveled with these South Indian communities-Hindu, Muslim, and Christian-and how these practices perpetuate or modify the heritages these groups claim for themselves in their new environs. Clothey looks specifically at settlements in the cities of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore; Mumbai, India; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Describing such settlements as communities living on boundaries, Clothey explores how their existence illustrates divisions among ethnic, local, and global identities; between generations; and between imagined pasts and uncertain futures. He contends that one of the most visible ways expatriated communities negotiate these boundaries is through the use of ritual as manifested in the building of shrines and temples, the celebration of festivals, the perpetuation and modification of performances, and the enactment of ceremonies believed to have ancient roots. In individual chapters Clothey examines the construction of Pittsburghs Sri...



Reviews

Extensive information for book fans. It is writter in basic words and never hard to understand. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

-- Otis Wisoky

This publication is great. It is full of wisdom and knowledge You will not really feel monotony at at any time of the time (that's what catalogs are for relating to when you ask me).

-- Dr. Everett Dicki DDS