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9781641893756  Icelandic Folklore and the Cultural Memory of Religious Change
Konstantinos D. Tsimonis

The Chinese Communist Youth League

Juniority and Responsiveness in a Party Youth Organization

In 2003, President Hu Jintao instructed Communist Youth League cadres to ‘keep the Party assured and the Youth satisfied’. This laconic recognition that winning the support of Chinese youth requires a more responsive engagement with their interests and demands, provided the League with a new youth work mandate to increase its capacity for responsiveness. This original investigation uses a combination of interviews, surveys and ethnography to examine the often contradictory and self-defeating ways the League implemented this mandate locally and nationally. By doing so, it also sheds light on Xi Jinping’s decision to downgrade it politically and organizationally in 2016. This book introduces a previously unexplored organization and develops ‘juniority’ as a conceptual tool that captures the ways generational power is institutionalized and fuels youth political apathy. For this reason, apart from China scholars, this study will be of particular interest to those working on comparative youth politics and sociology.

BIOGRAPHY
Dr Konstantinos Tsimonis is a Lecturer (US: Assistant Professor) in Chinese Society at the Lau China Institute, King’s College London. He has a PhD in Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). His work concentrates on the evolution of Chinese party-state organizations in the context of marketization and globalization, and their impact on policy making and state-society relations. His current research examines the social footprint of State Owned Enterprises in Southeast Europe.

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Edited by William Sax and Claudia Lang

The Movement for Global Mental Health

Critical Views from South and Southeast Asia

In this volume, prominent anthropologists, public health physicians, and psychiatrists respond sympathetically but critically to the Movement for Global Mental Health (MGMH), which seeks to export psychiatry throughout the world. They question some of its fundamental assumptions: the idea that "mental disorders" can clearly be identified; that they are primarily of biological origin; that the world is currently facing an "epidemic" of them; that the most appropriate treatments for them normally involve psycho-pharmaceutical drugs; and that local or indigenous therapies are of little interest or importance for treating them. Instead, the contributors argue that labeling mental suffering as "illness" or "disorder" is often highly problematic; that the countries of South and Southeast Asia have abundant, though non- psychiatric, resources for dealing with it; that its causes are often social and biographical; and that many non-pharmacological therapies are effective for dealing with it. In short, they advocate a thoroughgoing mental health pluralism.

BIOGRAPHY

Claudia Lang is currently an associate professor (Heisenberg) of anthropology at University of Leipzig, Germany. She works on the anthropology of health in India and has published on different topics, including traditional medicine, mental health, psychiatry, religion and ritual, health governance and subjectivities.

William S. ('Bo') Sax studied at Banaras Hindu University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Chicago, where he earned his PhD in Anthropology in 1987.

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Edited by Radosław Kotecki, Carsten Slech Jensen and Stephen Bennett

Christianity and War in Medieval East Central Europe and Scandinavia

This collaborative collection provides fresh perspectives on Christianity and the conduct of war in medieval East Central Europe and Scandinavia, investigating the intersection between religion, culture, and warfare in territories that were only integrated into Christendom in the Central Middle Ages. The contributors analyze cultures that lay outside Charlemagne’s limes and the frontiers of the Byzantine Empire, to consider a region stretching from the Balkans to the south, through Hungary and the Slavic lands (Poland, Bohemia, Rus), to the Baltic coastline with Polabia, Pomerania, Prussia, and Estonia, and reaching into Scandinavia.

The volume considers clerics as military leaders and propagandists, the role of Christian ritual and doctrine in warfare, and the adaptation and transformation of indigenous military cultures. It uncovers new information on perceptions of war and analyzes how local practices were incorporated into clerical narratives, enabling the reader to achieve a complete understanding of the period.

BIOGRAPHY

Stephen Bennett (Queen Mary University of London) is a historian specializing in medieval warfare.

Carsten Selch Jensen (University of Copenhagen) has published a number of works on the process of Christianization, warfare, and crusading, especially in the Baltic.

Radosław Kotecki (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz) has published a number of works on religion and war, clerical warfare, and arms-bearing, especially in medieval Poland.
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Daphna Ephrat

Sufi Masters and the Creation of Saintly Spheres in Medieval Syria

This study explores the creation of saintly spheres surrounding Sufi masters who functioned as embodiments of Islamic sainthood and imprinted their tangible mark on the land. Situated in the Syrian milieu of the counter-crusader period that was marked by intense religious excitement and re-sacralization of the landscape, the study centers on the role of Sufi saints as revivers of the prophetic legacy and as patrons of fellow believers, and their association with the glorious history of ancient Syrian cities and the expanding sacred landscape. Based upon a variety of literary sources, including hitherto unexplored saintly vitae, the investigation aims to contribute to an understanding of the process through which the religious and charismatic leadership of the venerated shaykhs was sustained and diffused, and their holiness emplaced and commemorated.

BIOGRAPHY
Daphna Ephrat is an Associate Professor of Islamic and Near Eastern History at the Open University of Israel. Her research focuses on religious and charismatic leadership in the medieval period.
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Conclusion
Memory was vital to the functioning of the medieval world. People in medieval societies shared an identity based on commonly held memories. Religions, rulers, and even cities and nations justified their existence and their status through stories that guaranteed their deep and unbroken historical roots. The studies in this interdisciplinary collection explore how manifestations of memory can be used by historians as a prism through which to illuminate European medieval thought and value systems. The contributors draw the link between memory and medieval science, management of power and remembrance of the dead ancestors through examples from southern Europe as a means of enriching and complicating our study of the Middle Ages; this is a region with a large amount of documentation but which to date has not been widely studied. Finally, the project has researched the role of memory as a means to sustain identity and ideology from the past to the present.

This book has two companion volumes, dealing with ideology and identity as part of a larger project that seeks to map and interrogate the significance of all three concepts in the Middle Ages in the West.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Prof. Flocel Sabaté (Univ. of Lleida) has been awarded the main research prizes in Catalonia (Distinció 2000; ICREA 2015) and Doctor Honoris Causa of the Univ. of Cuyo (2014).
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Distribution North America via Baker & Taylor Publisher Services | [www.btpubservices.com](http://www.btpubservices.com)
Eric Shane Bryan

Icelandic Folklore and the Cultural Memory of Religious Change

Nearly all recent examinations of Icelandic (and Scandinavian) folklore from the nineteenth century and earlier have concerned themselves with the origins and production of folktales rather than with the cultural implications of their content. This volume extends those discussions by offering an interdisciplinary methodology that weaves together the literature, religious and political history, and other cultural phenomena that have impacted folk narratives as evidence of the emergent cultural memory of a society undergoing the religious developments of Christianization and Reformation.

Iceland’s uncommon proclivity towards storytelling, its robust tradition of medieval manuscripts, and the “re-oralization” of those narratives after the medieval period, create a body of folktales and legends that have encoded a hidden account of how orthodox and heterodox beliefs (sometimes pagan in origin) intermingled as Christianity, and later Reformation, spread through the North. This volume unlocks that secret story by placing Icelandic folktales in a context of religious doctrine, social history, and Old Norse sagas and poetry. The analysis herein reveals a cultural memory of belief.

BIOGRAPHY

Eric Bryan is Assoc. Prof. of English at Missouri Univ. of Science and Technology. He has received grants from the Fulbright Program and American Scandinavian Foundation.

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Icelandic folktales; Scandinavian folklore; Old Norse Christianization; Icelandic Reformation; cultural memory
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