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Anthropology, Archaeology and Religion

Tellings and Texts

Music, Literature and Performance in North India

EDITED BY FRANCESCA ORSINI AND KATHERINE BUTLER SCHOFIELD

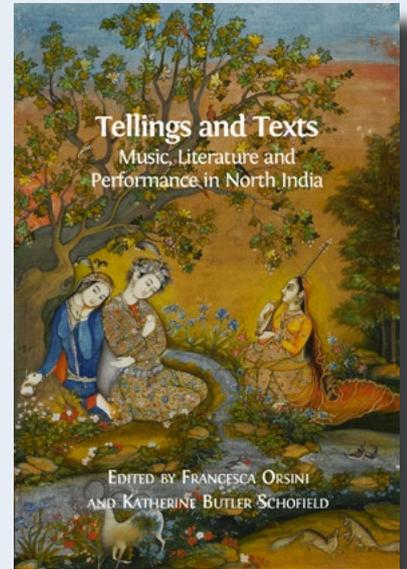
Read it online

A good deal of the work on literature in the North Indian vernaculars over the last decades has been, perhaps out of necessity, somewhat narrowly philological. This volume, however, marks a new stage of collective development in the field. Any scholar interested in current directions in South Asian humanities should find the papers exciting. Tellings and Texts, however, is much more than the sum of its parts. Indeed, it is hard to express how well put-together this volume is. Much too often edited books even on a fairly well-defined topic consist of separate chapters that appear mostly independent of one another, with section divisions that seem somewhat forced and not particularly coherent. This volume, by contrast, really does read as a well-executed whole, with the papers referencing one another generously and a progression from one nicely conceived section to the next.

— Daniel Gold, Professor of South-Asian Religions, Cornell University

Examining materials from early modern and contemporary North India and Pakistan, *Tellings and Texts* brings together seventeen first-rate papers on the relations between written and oral texts, their performance, and the musical traditions these performances have entailed. The contributions from some of the best scholars in the field cover a wide range of literary genres and social and cultural contexts across the region.

The texts and practices are contextualized in relation to the broader social and political background in which they emerged, showing how religious affiliations, caste dynamics and political concerns played a role in shaping social identities as well as aesthetic sensibilities. By doing so this book sheds light into theoretical issues of more general significance, such as textual versus oral norms; the features of oral performance and improvisation; the role of the text in performance; the aesthetics and social dimension of performance; the significance of space in performance history and important considerations on repertoires of story-telling. The book also contains links to audio files of some of the works discussed in the text.



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP0062>
2015 | 234 x 156 mm | 288 pp. | 11 b&w illus.

From Dust to Digital

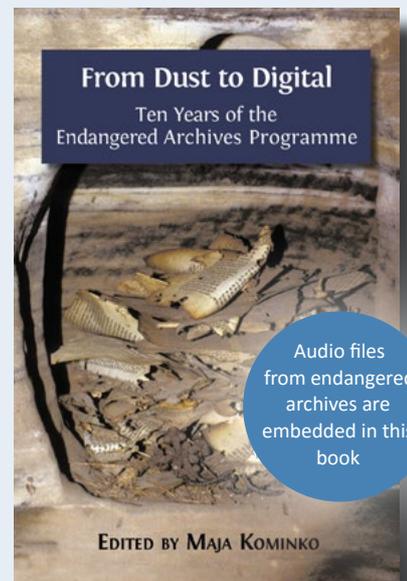
Ten Years of the Endangered Archives Programme

EDITED BY MAJA KOMINKO

Read it online

Much of world's documentary heritage rests in vulnerable, little-known and often inaccessible archives. Many of these archives preserve information that may cast new light on historical phenomena and lead to their reinterpretation. But such rich collections are often at risk of being lost before the history they capture is recorded. This volume celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Endangered Archives Programme at the British Library, established to document and publish online formerly inaccessible and neglected archives from across the globe.

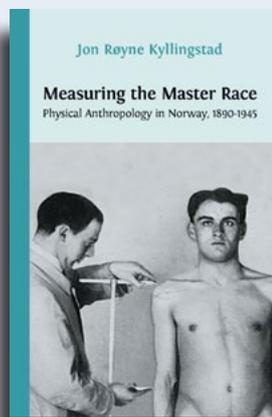
From Dust to Digital showcases the historical significance of the collections identified, catalogued and digitised through the Programme, bringing together articles on 19 of the 244 projects supported since its inception. These contributions demonstrate the range of materials documented—including rock inscriptions, manuscripts, archival records, newspapers, photographs and sound archives—and the wide geographical scope of the Programme. Many of the documents are published here for the first time, illustrating the potential these collections have to further our understanding of history.



Audio files from endangered archives are embedded in this book

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0052>
2015 | 234 x 156 mm | 722 pp.
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Jon Røyne Kyllingstad

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Physical Anthropology in Norway, 1890-1945

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0051>
2014 | 234 x 156 mm | 276 pp. | 27 b&w illus.

Measuring the Master Race

Physical Anthropology in Norway 1890-1945

[Read it online](#)

JON RØYNE KYLLINGSTAD

[Kyllingstad's] excellent new book . . . is essential reading for students of Scandinavian physical anthropology and related topics, such as Scandinavian prehistory and eugenics, and Norwegian national identity. Yet this fascinating book will be of great interest to a much broader audience as well. It is an important contribution to the history of racism and racial science, and its lessons are pertinent to current philosophical issues to do with 'race'.

— Adam Hochman, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*

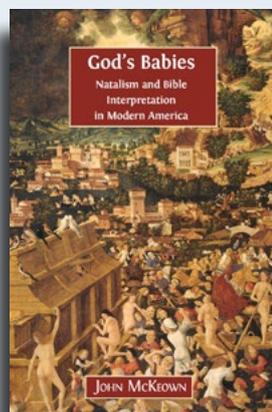
This book investigates the role played by Scandinavian scholars in inventing this so-called superior race, and discusses how this concept put its stamp on Norwegian physical anthropology, prehistory, national identity, and on the Norwegian eugenics movement. It also explores the decline and scientific disputation of these ideas in the 1930s as they came to be associated with the 'genetic cleansing' of Nazi Germany.

God's Babies

Natalism and Bible Interpretation in Modern America

[Read it online](#)

JOHN MCKEOWN



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0048>
2014 | 234 x 156 mm | 252 pp. | 12 b&w illus.

In this fascinating study, McKeown offers the reader a lucid exploration of the ways in which 'biblical' notions of fruitfulness and procreative fecundity have been used and misused within the Christian theological tradition down through the ages. In doing so, McKeown makes a significant contribution to the field of theological ethics, but also adds a stimulating chapter to the ever expanding story of the Bible's reception from antiquity down to the present day.

— David Shepherd, Trinity College Dublin

The human population's annual total consumption is not sustainable by one planet. This unprecedented situation calls for a reform of religious cultures that promote a large ideal family size. Many observers assume that Christianity is inevitably part of this problem because it promotes 'family values' and statistically, in America and elsewhere, has a higher birthrate than nonreligious people. This book explores diverse ideas about human reproduction in the church past and present. This book argues that natalism is inappropriate as a Christian application of Scripture, especially since rich populations' total footprints are detrimental to biodiversity and to human welfare. It explores the ancient cultural context of the Bible verses quoted by natalists and uses a hermeneutic lens to provide ecological interpretations of the Bible's 'fruitful' verses.

Cultural Heritage Ethics

Between Theory and Practice

[Read it online](#)

EDITED BY CONSTANTINE SANDIS



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0047>
2014 | 234 x 156 mm | 228 pp. | 51 colour illus.

Sandis's gathering of thirteen thoughtful contributions across a range of disciplines vindicates his decision to consider the puzzles of cultural heritage ethics in both theoretical and practical terms . . . This rich collection of essays includes voices from the developing as well as the developed world.

— Ivan Gaskell, *The Philosophical Quarterly*

This intra-disciplinary book bridges the gap between theory and practice by bringing together a stellar cast of academics, activists, consultants, journalists, lawyers, and museum practitioners, each contributing their own expertise to the wider debate of what cultural heritage means in the twenty-first century. *Cultural Heritage Ethics* provides cutting-edge arguments built on case studies of cultural heritage and its management in a range of geographical and cultural contexts. Moreover, the volume feels the pulse of the debate on heritage ethics by discussing timely issues such as access, acquisition, archaeological practice, curatorship, education, ethnology, historiography, integrity, legislation, memory, museum management, ownership, preservation, protection, public trust, restitution, human rights, stewardship, and tourism.

Feeding the City

Work and Food Culture of the Mumbai Dabbawalas

SARA RONCAGLIA



Every day in Mumbai 5,000 dabbawalas (literally translated as 'those who carry boxes') distribute a staggering 200,000 home-cooked lunchboxes to the city's workers and students. Giving employment and status to thousands of largely illiterate villagers from Mumbai's hinterland, this co-operative has been in operation since the late nineteenth century. It provides one of the most efficient delivery networks in the world: only one lunch in six million goes astray. *Feeding the City* is an ethnographic study of the fascinating inner workings of Mumbai's dabbawalas. Urban anthropologist Sara Roncaglia explains how they cater to the various dietary requirements of a diverse and increasingly global city, where the preparation and consumption of food is pervaded with religious and cultural significance.



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0031>
2013 | 234 x 156 mm | 234 pp. | 13 b&w illus.

Frontier Encounters

Knowledge and Practice at the Russian, Chinese and Mongolian Border

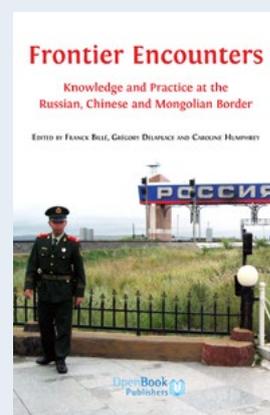
EDITED BY FRANCK BILLÉ, GRÉGORIE DELAPLACE AND CAROLINE HUMPHREY



The book intends to challenge a tendency in anthropological research to frame analysis in terms of 'culture' and 'identity' when dealing with issues relating to social life in the borderland areas. Materials provided throughout the eleven chapters of the book propose an alternative, and underline the benefits of a technological approach to the study of borders. The book presents an enjoyable and informative collection of essays. They contain personal recollections, a wealth of ethnographic materials, and multi-angle analysis of social dynamics across the borders.

— Anatole A. Klyosov, *Advances in Anthropology*

China and Russia are rising economic and political powers that share thousands of miles of border. Yet, despite their proximity, their practical, local interactions with each other, and with their third neighbour Mongolia, are rarely discussed. *Frontier Encounters* presents a wide range of views on how the borders between these unique countries are enacted, produced, and crossed. Bringing together anthropologists, sociologists and economists, this timely collection of essays offers new perspectives on an area that is currently of enormous economic, strategic and geo-political relevance.



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0026>
2012 | 234 x 156 mm | 290 pp. | 44 b&w illus.

The Sword of Judith

Judith Studies Across the Disciplines

EDITED BY KEVIN R. BRINE, ELENA CILETTI AND HENRIKE LÄHNEMANN



These essays, by presenting translations of unpublished manuscripts, analyzing new archival sources, and exploring Judith's representation in narrative, poetry, art, music and theatre, demonstrate how Judith serves as a template for marking changing views of politics, ethics, gender roles and theology from the Patristic period to the nineteenth century.

— Amy-Jill Levine, *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues*

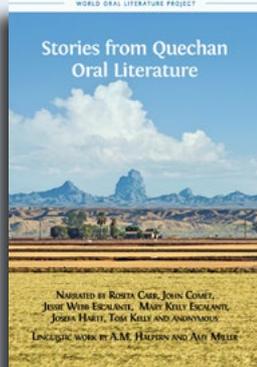
The Book of Judith tells the story of a fictitious Jewish woman beheading Holofernes, the general of a powerful army, to free her people. The story has fascinated artists and authors for centuries, and is becoming a major field of research in its own right.

The Sword of Judith is the first multidisciplinary collection of essays to discuss representations of Judith throughout the centuries. Bringing together scholars from around the world, it transforms our understanding of Judith's enduring story across a wide range of disciplines. The collection includes new archival source studies and the translation of unpublished manuscripts and texts previously unavailable in English.



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2010 | 234 x 156 mm | 528 pp. | 52 b&w illus.



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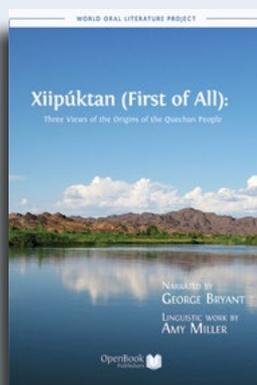
<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0049>
2014 | 234 x 156 mm | 547 pp. | 2 b&w illus.

Stories from Quechan Oral Literature

[Read it online](#)

LINGUISTIC WORK BY A.M. HALPERN AND AMY MILLER

The Quechan are a Yuman people who have traditionally lived along the lower part of the Colorado River in California and Arizona. They are well known as warriors, artists, and traders, and they also have a rich oral tradition. The stories in this volume were told by tribal elders in the 1970s and early 1980s. The eleven narratives in this volume take place at the beginning of time and introduce the reader to a variety of traditional characters, including the infamous Coyote and also Kwayúu the giant, Old Lady Sanyuuxáv and her twin sons, and the Man Who Bothered Ants. This book makes a long-awaited contribution to the oral literature and mythology of the American Southwest, and its format and organization are of special interest. Narratives are presented in the original language and in the storytellers' own words. A prosodically-motivated broken-line format captures the rhetorical structure and local organization of the oral delivery and calls attention to stylistic devices such as repetition and syntactic parallelism. Facing-page English translation provides a key to the original Quechan for the benefit of language learners.



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0037>
2013 | 234 x 156 mm | 220 pp. | 2 b&w illus.

Xiipúktan (First of All)

[Read it online](#)

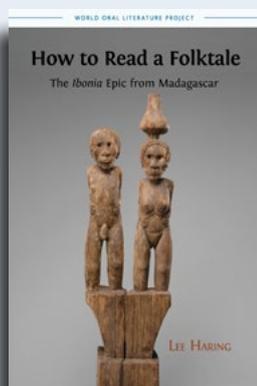
Three Accounts of the Origins of the Quechan People

GEORGE BRYANT, LINGUISTIC WORK BY AMY MILLER

The meticulous transcript review process is evidenced by notes at the end of each retelling. This single volume is made complete by providing a practical orthography along with pronunciation tips and grammar. [...] Highly recommended for Native language and traditional story collections.

— Naomi Caldwell, Alabama State University

This volume, presented in the Quechan language with facing-column English translation, provides three views of the origins of the Quechan people. One narrative synthesizes George Bryant's childhood memories and his later research. Another is based upon J.P. Harrington's 'A Yuma Account of Origins' (1908). The third provides a modern view of the origins of the Quechan, beginning with the migration from Asia to the New World and ending with the settlement of the Yuman tribes at their present locations. This collection is for the Quechan people and will also interest linguists, anthropologists, oral literature specialists, and anyone interested in Native American culture.



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0034>
2013 | 234 x 156 mm | 163 pp. | 4 b&w illus.

How to Read a Folktale

[Read it online](#)

The 'Ibonia' Epic from Madagascar

LEE HARING

Haring's work is important for its preservation of some fascinating textual versions of verbal arts, for his contextual and analytical commentary, and for newer and broader approaches than the ones that characterized the earlier volume. It is a fine addition to the scholarship, in several European languages, of this epic hero and his socio-cultural and political roots.

— Robert Cancel, University of California, San Diego

How to Read a Folktale offers an English translation of *Ibonia*, a spellbinding tale of old Madagascar. Recorded when the Malagasy people were experiencing European contact for the first time, *Ibonia* proclaims the power of the ancestors against the foreigner. Its fairytale elements link it with European folktales, but the story is nonetheless very much a product of Madagascar. Inflating the form of folktale to epic proportions, it combines African-style praise poetry with Indonesian-style riddles and poems. Through *Ibonia*, Lee Haring expertly helps readers to understand the very nature of folktales. His definitive translation, originally published in 1994, has now been fully revised to emphasize its poetic qualities, while his new introduction and detailed notes give insight into the fascinating imagination and symbols of the Malagasy.

World Oral Literature Series

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Storytelling in Northern Zambia

Theory, Method, Practice and Other Necessary Fictions

ROBERT CANCEL

The author carefully integrates the digitized audio and video recordings into the text, enabling the reader to hear the voices of the storytellers themselves and listen to their narratives. Cancel's critical interpretation of the stories, combined with these audio and video materials, makes this book an important addition to studies of folklore in Africa. [...] Cancel's study, with its innovative format, explores new directions in the field of folklore.

— Mustafa Kemal Mirzeler, *Journal of Folklore Research*

Combined with newly digitalised audio and video material, Robert Cancel's thorough critical interpretation makes *Storytelling in Northern Zambia* a much-needed addition to the slender corpus of African folklore studies that deal with storytelling performance. Cancel threads his way between the complex demands of African fieldwork studies, folklore theory, narrative modes, reflexive description and simple documentation, and succeeds in bringing to the reader a set of performers and their performances that are vivid, varied and instructive. He illustrates this living narrative tradition with a wide range of examples, and highlights the social status of narrators and the complex local identities that are at play.

Oral Literature in the Digital Age

Archiving Orality and Connecting with Communities

EDITED BY MARK TURIN, CLAIRE WHEELER AND ELEANOR WILKINSON

All these contributors, like the editors themselves, are devoted to finding creative, accessible and usable digital platforms that not only close the distance between users, researchers and the tools used to archive oral literature, but also continue to connect, foster and sustain relationships with indigenous communities and those who try to access their rich and rapidly disappearing cultures. [...] This international and frank discussion enables us to deeply engage with the important issues that constantly surface in the field. [...] the authors' transparency and willingness to discuss their challenges provide readers with important insights into the imperfect but necessary efforts being made to preserve endangered oral literatures and protect intangible cultural heritage.

—Stacey Zembrycki, *Oral History*, Autumn 2014

Oral Literature in Africa

RUTH FINNEGAN

What is significant about this revised, online edition is that it makes this ground-breaking, seminal work freely available to all who want to use it. This is particularly significant for the African scholar living in an increasingly technologized society on a continent where academics often remain on the periphery of a society consumed by emerging capitalism and political uncertainty. [...] Making this book freely available therefore returns it back to its people on the ground, back to its original home, which underpins the fieldwork represented in the volume. It is now available for the next generation of researchers who will emerge through being influenced by this technologized version of the book.

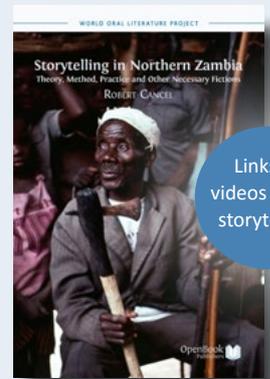
— Russell H. Kaschula, *Journal of African Cultural Studies*

Ruth Finnegan's *Oral Literature in Africa* was first published in 1970, and since then has been widely praised as one of the most important books in its field. Based on years of fieldwork, the study traces the history of storytelling across the continent of Africa. This revised edition makes Finnegan's ground-breaking research available to the next generation of scholars. It includes a new introduction, additional images and an updated bibliography, as well as its original chapters on poetry, prose, 'drum language' and drama, and an overview of the social, linguistic and historical background of oral literature in Africa.

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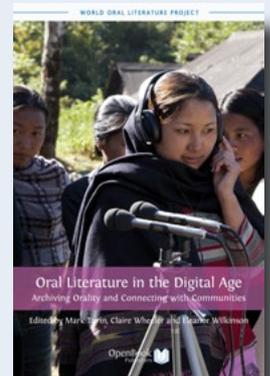


Links to videos of the storytellers

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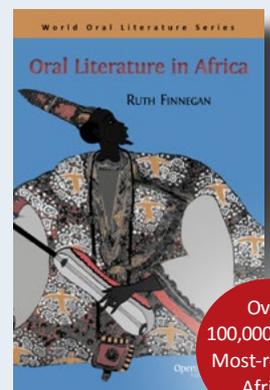
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2013 | 234 x 156 mm | 190 pp. | 36 b&w illus.



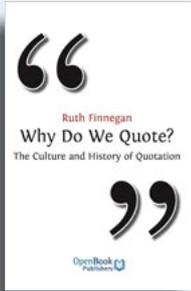
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