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Ethnography through Thick and Thin

By George E. Marcus

Princeton University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 288 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 0.8in. In the 1980s, George Marcus spearheaded a major critique of cultural anthropology, expressed most clearly in the landmark book *Writing Culture*, which he coedited with James Clifford. *Ethnography through Thick and Thin* updates and advances that critique for the late 1990s. Marcus presents a series of penetrating and provocative essays on the changes that continue to sweep across anthropology. He examines, in particular, how the discipline's central practice of ethnography has been changed by multi-sited approaches to anthropology and how new research patterns are transforming anthropologists' careers. Marcus rejects the view, often expressed, that these changes are undermining anthropology. The combination of traditional ethnography with scholarly experimentation, he argues, will only make the discipline more lively and diverse. The book is divided into three main parts. In the first, Marcus shows how ethnographers' tradition of defining fieldwork in terms of peoples and places is now being challenged by the need to study culture by exploring connections, parallels, and contrasts among a variety of often seemingly incommensurate sites. The second part illustrates this emergent multi-sited condition of research by reflecting it in some of Marcus's own past research...



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