

# Anthropology and the Politics of Representation

Edited by **Gabriela Vargas-Cetina**

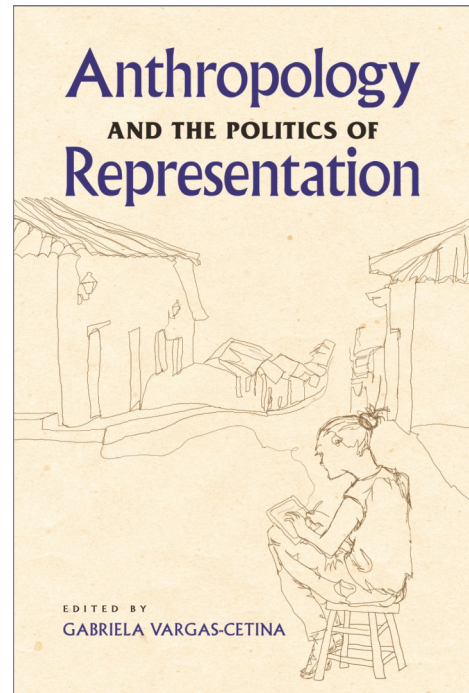
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*Anthropology and the Politics of Representation* examines the inherently problematic nature of representation and description of living people, specifically in ethnography and more generally in anthropological work as a whole.

In *Anthropology and the Politics of Representation* volume editor Gabriela Vargas-Cetina brings together a group of international scholars who, through their fieldwork experiences, reflect on the epistemological, political, and personal implications of their own work. To do so, they focus on such topics as ethnography, anthropologists' engagement in identity politics, representational practices, the contexts of anthropological research and work, and the effects of personal choices regarding self-involvement in local causes that may extend beyond purely ethnographic goals.

Such reflections raise a number of ethnographic questions: What are ethnographic goals? Who sets the agenda for ethnographic writing? How does fieldwork change the anthropologist's identity? Do ethnography and ethnographers have an impact on local lives and self-representation? How do anthropologists balance long held respect for cultural diversity with advocacy for local people? How does an author choose what to say and write, and what not to disclose? Should anthropologists support causes that may require going against their informed knowledge of local lives?

*Gabriela Vargas-Cetina* is a professor of anthropology at Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. She has done fieldwork in Italy (Sardinia), Canada (Alberta), and Mexico (Chiapas and Yucatán), and has published mainly on globalization and cooperatives in Italy and Mexico, and music and dance in Canada and Mexico. She is the coeditor of *Representaciones Culturales: Imágenes e Imaginarios de lo Yucateco* and *Modernidades Locales: Etnografía del Presente Múltiple*.



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