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finalist 2024 award for excellence in the study of religion textual studies american academy of religion ritual manuals are among the most common and most personal forms of buddhist literature since at least the late fifth century individual practitioners including monks nuns teachers disciples and laypeople have kept texts describing how to perform the daily rites these manuals represent an intimate counterpart to the canonical sutras and the tantras speaking to the lived experience of buddhist practice conjuring the buddha offers a history of early tantric buddhist ritual through the lens of the tibetan manuscripts discovered near dunhuang on the ancient silk road jacob p dalton argues that the spread of ritual manuals offered buddhists an extracanonical literary form through which to engage with their tradition in new and locally specific ways he suggests that ritual manuals were the literary precursors to the tantras crucial to the emergence of esoteric buddhism examining a series of ninth and tenth century tantric manuals from dunhuang dalton uncovers lost moments in the development of rituals such as consecration possession sexual yoga the great perfection and the subtle body practices of the winds and channels he also traces the use of poetic language in ritual manuals showing how at pivotal moments metaphor simile rhythm and rhyme were deployed to evoke carefully sculpted affective experiences offering an unprecedented glimpse into the personal practice of early tantric buddhists conjuring the buddha provides new insight into the origins and development of the tantric tradition

non aboriginal material

the japanese middle ages were a period when forms of secrecy dominated religious practice this fascinating collection traces out the secret characteristics and practices in japanese religion as well as analyzing the decline of religious esotericism in japan the

essays in this impressive work refer to esoteric buddhism as the core of japan's culture of secrecy esoteric buddhism developed in almost all buddhist countries of asia but it was of particular importance in japan where its impact went far beyond the borders of buddhism also affecting shinto as well as non religious forms of discourse the contributors focus on the impact of esoteric buddhism on japanese culture and also include comparative chapters on india and china whilst concentrating on the japanese medieval period this book will give readers familiar with present day japan many explanations for the still visible remnants of japan's medieval culture of secrecy

this cutting edge two volume set with contributions by distinguished and internationally recognized scholars provides a comprehensive picture of contemporary issues in the field of women s sexuality emphasizing women s diversity and international perspectives the multifaceted field of women s sexuality has expanded as a field of inquiry over the last 25 years to encompass a wide range of new perspectives theories topics findings and controversies the chapters in this work review and question the utility of standard sexuality frameworks addressing purely biological models heteronormative definitions of sexuality and others and provide new insights and approaches to understanding women s sexuality the intersectional and contextual nature of women s sexuality and how it is inextricably connected to women s relational social economic and cultural contexts is highlighted the essential handbook of women s sexuality includes in depth coverage of a wide range of women s sexuality topics including sexual desire and satisfaction sexuality in relationships development across the lifespan sexuality concerns in diverse countries pornography lesbian bisexual and transgender women women from diverse backgrounds health and sexuality reconceptualizations of women s sexual problems trauma rape and intimate partner violence and mental health and therapy these volumes can serve as a resource for students researchers and anyone seeking a greater understanding of women s sexuality

what makes young men willing to risk their lives by enrolling in violent organizations how do these organizations persuade young men to do so in the age of radicalization these questions are central to most debates about politics and globalization through long term ethnographic fieldwork in various conflict settings this volume explores both the violent organizations that entice young people to engage in conflict and how these same young people answer the call it takes the reader into the worlds of maoists in nepal ex combatants mercenaries religious zealots and drug dealers in west africa violent student politics in bangladesh ethno nationalist vigilante groups in kenya both sides of the war between Ira and the ugandan state as well as gang like fraternities in the philippines when researched in situ and in depth these mobilizations show themselves to be multiple performative and temporary just as people may show themselves to be more sporadically radical than ideologically locked down

div artemis of ephesos was one of the most widely worshiped deities of the graeco roman world her temple the artemision was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and for more than half a millennium people flocked to ephesos to learn the great secret of the mysteries and sacrifices that were celebrated every year on her birthday in this work guy maclean rogers sets out the evidence for the celebration of artemis s mysteries against the background of the remarkable urban development of the city during the roman empire and then proposes an entirely new theory about the great secret that was revealed to initiates into artemis s mysteries the revelation of that secret helps to explain not only the success of artemis s cult and polytheism itself but more surprisingly the demise of both and the success of christianity contrary to many anthropological and scientific theories the history of polytheism including the celebration of artemis s mysteries is best understood as a darwinian tale of adaptation competition and change div

in this groundbreaking book matsuoka shinpei a leading scholar of noh theater provides

a detailed account of the birth of one of japan's most celebrated art forms although noh has often been associated with the elite embodied performance explores its links to a wider popular culture revealing a rich and colorful public space where courtiers and commoners mingled matsuoka traces noh's connections to popular and religious dances linked verse and chigo beautiful temple boy culture emphasizing performance and the body he describes the world of noh playwright zeami as well as his views on dramaturgy and performance and argues that zeami was once a chigo matsuoka shows how religious rituals and cultural forms like ecstatic dance prayer and plays about demons in hell attracted people on the margins such activities matsuoka contends drew on the tension between wild acrobatic movement and corporeal restraint influencing the development of noh as well as the art of flower arranging and the tea ceremony janet goff s translation makes available in english a classic work of japanese scholarship that will be invaluable to those interested in medieval japanese culture noh and theatrical practice

explores initiation rites wedding feasts harvest celebrations religious rituals and many other customs used around the world to mark all kinds of special occasions suggested level intermediate junior secondary

this cultural and psychological study of gender identity and sexual development in a new guinea highlands society includes rich material on initiation rites and socialization studies and contrasts the sambia with other societies including the united states for example sambia boys experience ritualized homosexuality before puberty and continue this practice until marriage after which homosexual activity is prohibited the implications are developed cross culturally and contextualized in gender literature this new edition contains updated information about the sambian ritualization and socialization of gender practices and will include a new chapter on sexuality gender and social change among the sambia important notice media content referenced within the product description or

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this groundbreaking book presents rarely seen photos that provide an entirely fresh perspective on male friendship in the 19th century deitcher s provocative text combines history social observation pictorial analysis and personal reflection 108 full color photos

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