



"Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs"

By Shanshan Du

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Based on extensive fieldwork, this book explores the Lahu society in Southwest China where practical gender equality has become the byproduct of a potent ideology of gender unity, vividly expressed by the proverb, "chopsticks only work in pairs."

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"Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs" By Shanshan Du Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

This book is delightfully readable and at the same time thought-provoking, full of lively and sensitive ethnography...Finely written.

(Hayami Yoko *Asian Folklore Studies*)

A very powerful ethnography.

(Charles F. McKhann *Anthropos*)

Review

Shanshan Du brilliantly captures the everyday practices of Lahu gender relations and pushes, in one broad stroke, the study of gender equality and inequality in new and compelling directions. It is destined to be a classic.

(Ralph Litzinger, Duke University)

A fascinating examination of the logic of gender equality among the Lahu of Southwest China.... Du's careful ethnographic mapping is part of a growing body of fine-grained anthropological analyses putting to permanent rest the universal male dominance thesis of early feminist anthropology.

(Peggy Sanday, University of Pennsylvania)

Shanshan Du has documented a remarkably egalitarian gender ideology among the Lahu people of Southwestern China.... The book is both an ethnographic contribution to the study of the area, and another piece for the puzzle of the question of gender egalitarianism.

(Sherry Ortner, Columbia University)

A compelling symbolic and social analysis of a rare society characterized by gender equality. Engagingly written, this book is an important contribution to feminist scholarship and to the theoretical debate on gender asymmetry, offering new ways of thinking about human diversity and promoting equality between women and men in our own society.

(Carolyn Sargent, Southern Methodist University)

A wonderful treatment of one of the central issues in anthropology: the meanings and manifestations of gender equality.... Du has uncovered a marvelously intriguing society that is organized around.... the pair bond.

(William Jankowiak, University of Nevada)

About the Author

Shanshan Du is assistant professor of anthropology at Tulane University and winner of the Elsie Clews Parsons Prize of the American Ethnological Society and the Sylvia Forman Prize of the Association for Feminist Anthropology.

Users Review

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