

Blackwood / Wieringa

Female Desires

Same-Sex Relations and Transgender Practices Across Cultures

Evelyn Blackwood and Saskia Wieringa have compiled thirteen essays from a group of historians, sociologists, and anthropologists who discuss same-sex desire among women outside the West, exploring female eroticism in such societies and cultures as India, Polynesia, Latin America, Native North America, and southern Africa. *Female Desires* offers compelling evidence against the commonly accepted notion that non-Western women are generally passive victims of male domination and compulsory heterosexuality. It also dispels the idea that same-sex female desire is rooted in Western neo-imperialist culture: contributors show non-Western women to be active agents of their own sexual identities. Essays include Giti Thadani on lesbian desire in ancient and modern India, Saskia Wieringa on butch-femme social types in Indonesia and Peru, and Norma Mogrovejo on the lesbian movement in Mexico. In a larger sense, the essays attempt to look past the ethnocentric categories in which sexuality, identity, and culture are often considered.

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37,49 €

35,04 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780231112611
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-0-231-11261-1
Verlag: Columbia University Press
Erscheinungstermin: 26.01.1999
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 1999
Serie: Between Men-Between Women:
Lesbian and Gay Studies
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 595 g
Seiten: 352
Format (B x H): 159 x 235 mm

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16.08.2024 | 01:34 Uhr

