

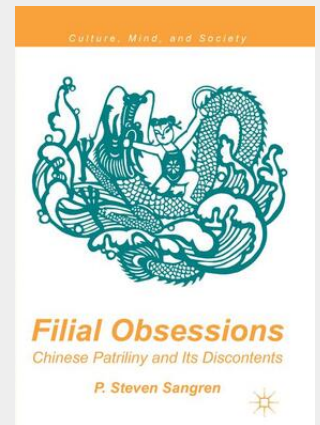
Sangren

Filial Obsessions

Chinese Patriline and Its Discontents

This book employs a broad analysis of Chinese patriline to propose a distinctive theoretical conceptualization of the role of desire in culture. It utilizes a unique synthesis of Marxian and psychoanalytic insights in arguing that Chinese patriline is best understood as, simultaneously, "a mode of production of desire" and as "instituted fantasy." The argument advances through discussions and analyses of kinship, family, gender, filial piety, ritual, and (especially) mythic narratives. In each of these domains, P. Steven Sangren addresses the complex sentiments and ambivalences associated with filial relations. Unlike most earlier studies which approach Chinese patriline and filial piety as irreducible markers of cultural difference, Sangren argues that Chinese patriline is better approached as a topic of critical inquiry in its own right.

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