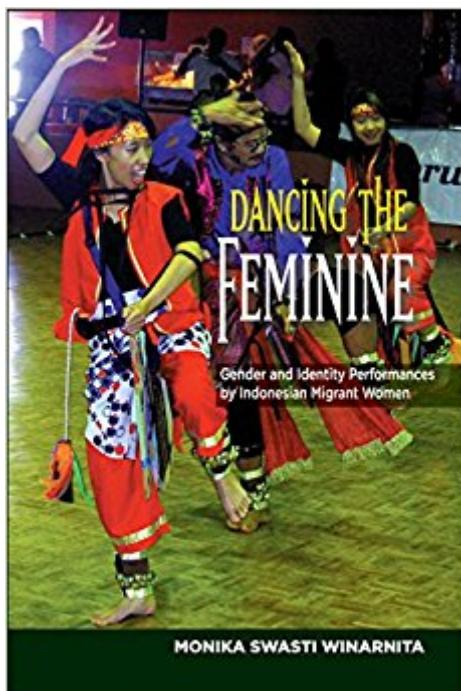


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Dancing The Feminine: Gender & Identity Performances By Indonesian Migrant Women (Asian And Asian American Studies)



Synopsis

Migration makes a profound impression on identity (gender and sexuality, culture, class, status), its expressions, and performance. Research in this field has demonstrated that migrant communities often cast women as bearers of cultural reproduction. This is especially the case when women choose to become representatives of their community through cultural dance performances. Such performances are also a means to express the migrant life of movement and a way to maintain their sense of well-being. Dancing the Feminine is a compelling vision of expressions of gender and identity at the heart of the Asian women's experience. For the Indonesian female migrants, performing 'femininity' is frequently negotiated in a cross-cultural context. The performances that author Monika Winarnita analyses are dramas of human interaction brought up through fissures and resolutions between the performers and their various audiences. The book provides analysis of these cultural performances as rituals of belonging, which demonstrate that in the diaspora meanings of the ritual are always open to being contested. A particular appeal of this book is the way in which cultural dance performance offers profound insight into migrants' life experience as well as into how human beings tell their stories and interact with one another. Based on her experience of performing dance with Indonesian migrant women in Australia, the author provides a unique and novel set of research data that contributes to a diverse body of scholarly work in migration, performance, gender, sexuality and cultural studies, anthropology, and Asian studies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Monika Winarnitas work provides an intellectually rigorous, insightful, original and engaging examination of the pursuit of traditional, authentic Indonesian dance performances by Indonesian immigrant women in Perth, Western Australia. -- Professor Henry Spiller (ethnomusicology) and Chair, Department of Music, UC Davis --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Monika Swasti Winarnita is a Postdoctoral Fellow of Anthropology at the University of Victoria, BC Canada with affiliation to La Trobe University Australia. Her published work covers Indonesian, Malay and Australian studies, migration, transnational families, diaspora politics, identity, gender, sexuality and cultural performance.

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