

Arguing sainthood - modernity, psychoanalysis, and Islam

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I thereby create a theoretical space for a desiring, experiencing subjectivity that stands at a nexus of discourses. A unique blend of theory and narrative and written in a highly lucid style, this is a fascinating book that reveals not only the incoherent and enchanted world of traditional mysticism, but also the hegemonic and exploitative empire of modern rationality. Ewing draws creatively on the work of French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan to understand Sufi religious meanings and practices.

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The knowledge of death forces us to stand in a space between discourses. He was dressed in white and wore a white turban. Sufi Sahib's appearance was impressive and conformed to my expectations of the Sufi pir.

Arguing Sainthood: Modernity, Psychoanalysis, and Islam, American Ethnologist

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ROBBEN Utrecht University Arguing sainthood: Modernity, psychoanalysis, and Islam is an intriguing ethnography based on two years of fieldwork among Sufi teachers, religious mendicants, and middle-class Pakistani in the city of Lahore.

Arguing Sainthood: Modernity, Psychoanalysis, and Islam, American Ethnologist

Using both anthropological fieldwork and psychoanalytic theory to critically reinterpret theories of subjectivity, Ewing examines the production of identity in the context of a complex social field of conflicting ideologies and interests. Sufi Sahib's wife introduced me and the young Pakistani woman with me as students who were interested in studying pirs and Islam.

Arguing Sainthood: Modernity, Psychoanalysis, and Islam by Katherine Pratt Ewing, Hardcover

When modernization is assumed to be an unstoppable force shaping the future in a predetermined way, it is likely that contemporary Sufi practice will be interpreted in either of two ways: 1 as a watered-down version of liberal democracy dressed up in local symbols that have been propagated in state ideological formations to modernize the general population see chapter 3 below , or 2 as a form of resistance to the hegemony of a secularized Western discourse, a Sufism therefore thoroughly penetrated by the hegemonic order that it stands against. In front of him was a tray on which were arranged a small pile of newspaper, rock salt, and a tiny hammer.

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