

## Authors

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**Jan Beek** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the AFRASO research programme, Goethe University Frankfurt. Currently, he works on the anthropology of fraud, with a focus on pyramid schemes and network marketing in Kenya and Ghana. He authored the book *Stateness: Police Work in Ghana* and co-edited *Police in Africa: The Street Level View*.

**Stefanie Bognitz** is a doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Her current research *Promising Access to Justice: The Everyday of Legal Aid and Mediation in Rwanda* addresses the implications of contemporary re-makings of legal institutions and offers an analysis of the afterlives of genocide and its legal, organisational and institutional redresses in a post-transitional justice Rwanda.

**Melanie Brand** is a PhD candidate at the Chair of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Konstanz. In her multi-sited ethnography, she investigates institutionalized domestic violence support services in urban South Africa. Her research interests include the entanglement of socio-psychological and bureaucratic aspects of state-sponsored support services, truth claims and identity politics in counselling practices and therapeutic interventions, as well as the ways in which policies gain social relevance in practice.

**Michael Bürgé** is a PhD candidate at the Chair for Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Konstanz. In his dissertation *In Sierra Leone Everybody is a Manager* he focuses on the production of value(s), negotiations of il/llicit and il/legal practices and the shaping of social relations particularly of young men living in northern Sierra Leone's socioeconomically precarious environment.

**Florian Mühlfried** is a social anthropologist in the Caucasus Studies Programme at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena. Previously, he was a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and a visiting

professor at UNICAMP, Brazil. His publications include the monographies *Being a State and States of Being in Highland Georgia*, *Post-Soviet Feasting* (in German) and *Mistrust: From Absence to Presence* (forthcoming).

**Mathijs Pelkmans** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He lived in Georgia for two years and in Kyrgyzstan for three, carrying out ethnographic research on territorial borders, ideological change, conspiracy theorizing, and doubtful belief. In terms of recent work, he is the editor of *Ethnographies of Doubt: Faith and Uncertainty in Contemporary Societies* and the author of *Fragile Conviction: Changing Ideological Landscapes in Urban Kyrgyzstan*.

**Nicolai Ruh** is PhD candidate at the Centre of Excellence 'Cultural Foundations of Social Integration' at the University of Konstanz and researcher at the Social Science Archive of Konstanz. He is currently writing his PhD thesis on post-social imaginaries in the politically sensitized community of developers of cryptographic systems. His research interests include tech activism, Science and Technology Studies and Sociology of Knowledge.

**Leonardo Schiocchet** is a social anthropologist specialized in the anthropology of the Arab Middle East and forced migration. He is a researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA); assistant editor to Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia (ACME); and a founding-member of the Refugee Outreach & Research Network (ROR-n).

**Abdoulaye Wotem Somparé** obtained in 2006 a PhD in sociology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales de Paris. Since 2008, he has been the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Université Kofi Annan de Guinée. He also works as a consultant for the World Health Organization. His research is focused on issues of ethnical relationships, democratic transition in Guinea and methodology.

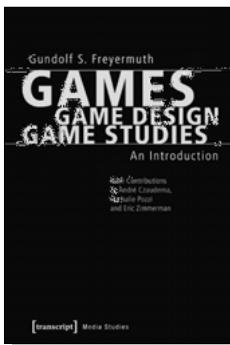
**Ester Botta Somparé**, after studying International and Diplomatic Relations at the University of Bologna, obtained a PhD in social anthropology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales de Paris in 2011. She is the author of a book on family and school education in a pastoral society of Guinea (in French). Since 2008, she has been teaching anthropology at the Université Kofi Annan de Guinée in 2011.

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**Ilya Utekhin** is a Professor in the Anthropology Department of the European University, St.Petersburg. His research interests include the study of Soviet and post-Soviet culture at the level of everyday life, the ethnography of communication, conversation analysis, the anthropology of digital technology and anthropological studies of disability.

**Thomas Yarrow** is a Senior Lecturer in social anthropology at Durham University. He has developed an interest in the social life of expert knowledge, specifically through ethnographic research with development professionals, architects, heritage professionals and archaeologists. He is the author of *Development Beyond Politics: Aid, Activism and NGOs in Ghana* and the editor of four edited volumes, including *Detachment: Essays on the Limits of Relational Thinking*.

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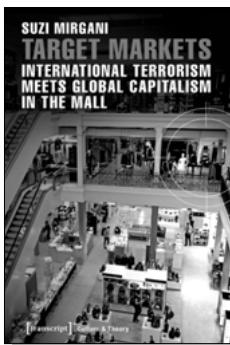
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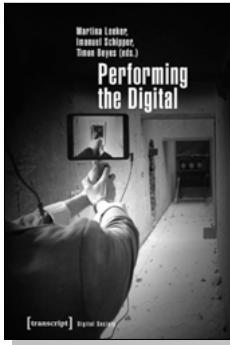
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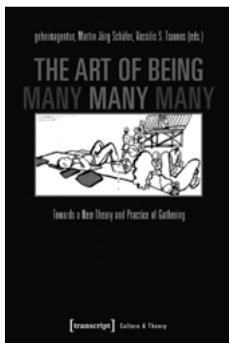
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