Economies of Abandonment

Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism

Elizabeth A. Povinelli
In *Economies of Abandonment*, Elizabeth A. Povinelli explores how late liberal imaginaries of tense, eventfulness, and ethical substance make the global distribution of life and death, hope and harm, and endurance and exhaustion not merely sensible but also just. She presents new ways of conceptualizing formations of power in late liberalism—the shape that liberal governmentality has taken as it has responded to a series of legitimacy crises in the wake of anticolonial and new social movements and, more recently, the “clash of civilizations” after September 11. Based on longstanding ethnographic work in Australia and the United States, as well as critical readings of legal, academic, and activist texts, Povinelli examines how alternative social worlds and projects generate new possibilities of life in the context of ordinary and extraordinary acts of neglect and surveillance. She focuses particularly on social projects that have not yet achieved a concrete existence but persist at the threshold of possible existence. By addressing the question of the endurance, let alone the survival, of alternative forms of life, Povinelli opens new ethical and political questions.
Information

Author/Editor Bios
Table of Contents
Rights
Additional Information

Author/Editor Bios

Elizabeth A. Povinelli is Professor of Anthropology and Gender Studies at Columbia University. She is the author of *The Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality* and *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterities and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism*, both also published by Duke University Press, as well as *Labor’s Lot: The Power, History, and Culture of Aboriginal Action*.

Table of Contents

Preface ix
Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction. The Child in the Broom Closet 1

1. The Part That Has No Part 47

2. The Brackets of Recognition 75

3. Road Kill: Ethical Substance, Exhaustion, Endurance 101

4. Events of Abandonment 131

5. After Good and Evil, Whither Sacrificial Love? 163
Conclusion. Negative Critique, Positive Sociographies 187

Notes 193

Bibliography 211

Index 225

Sales/Territorial Rights: World

Rights and licensing

Additional Information


Publicity material
  • Bk Cover Image Full

Related Items

Also Viewed

The Hundreds

The Hundreds
Lauren Berlant &
Kathleen Stewart
The Affect Theory Reader

The Right to Maim

Jasbir K. Puar
THE RIGHT TO MAIM
DISABLED / CAPACITY / DISABILITY
Elizabeth A. Povinelli. In Economies of Abandonment, Elizabeth A. Povinelli explores how late liberal imaginaries of tense, eventfulness, and ethical substance make the global distribution of life and death, hope and harm, and endurance and exhaustion not merely sensible but also just. She presents new ways of conceptualizing formations of power in late liberalism—the shape that liberal governmentality has taken as it has responded to a series of legitimacy crises in the wake of anticolonial and new social movements and Economies of Abandonment is conceptualized as an argument that builds across chapters, rather than as a set of thematically related essays. Material elaborated in an initial chapter is referred to in subsequent chapters. Material acting to support a point in one chapter is elaborated and made the center of a subsequent chapter.