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.
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*.

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The Hundreds

The Hundreds
Lauren Berlant &
Kathleen Stewart
Vibrant Matter

Designs for the Pluriverse

Jane Bennett

Arturo Escobar
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. Economies of Abandonment is a critical examination of the governance of social difference within contemporary political economy in Australia and the United States. Aligning the book with the general project of immanent critique, 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