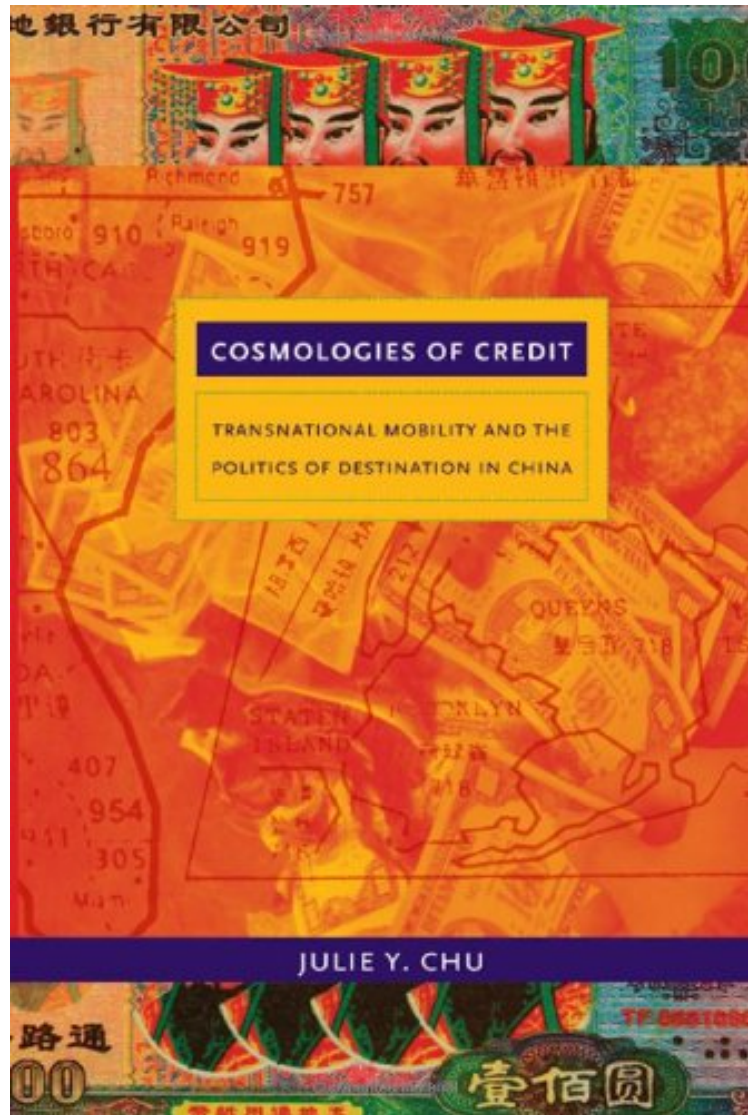


[Free] Cosmologies of Credit: Transnational Mobility and the Politics of Destination in China

Cosmologies of Credit: Transnational Mobility and the Politics of Destination in China

Julie Y. Chu

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Julie Y. Chu : Cosmologies of Credit: Transnational Mobility and the Politics of Destination in China before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Cosmologies of Credit: Transnational Mobility and the Politics of Destination in China*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely a MustBy John This is a wonderfully written book which, as an aspiring anthropologist of China, I will be referring to quite often in the next few years. Chu's writing style is

particularly clear, her argument and analysis is well presented, and the way she thematically connects many seemingly disparate elements of Chinese culture together is masterful.

Year after year a woman sits in her bare living quarters with her bags packed. She is waiting for a phone call from her snakehead, or human smuggler. That longed-for call will send her out her door, away from Fuzhou, China, on a perilous, illicit journey to the United States. Nothing diffuses the promise of an overseas destiny: neither the ever-increasing smuggling fee for successful travel nor her knowledge of the deadly risks in transit and the exploitative labor conditions abroad. The sense of imminent departure enchants her every move and overshadows the banalities of her present life. In this engrossing ethnographic account of how the Fuzhounese translate their desires for mobility into projects worth pursuing, Julie Y. Chu focuses on Fuzhounese efforts to recast their social horizons beyond the limitations of peasant life in China. Transcending utilitarian questions of risks and rewards, she considers the overflow of aspirations in the Fuzhounese pursuit of transnational destinations. Chu attends not just to the migration of bodies, but also to flows of shipping containers, planes, luggage, immigration papers, money, food, prayers, and gods. By analyzing the intersections and disjunctures of these various flows, she explains how mobility operates as a sign embodied through everyday encounters and in the transactions of persons and things.

Cosmologies of Credit is a rich ethnography of migration that describes departures rather than arrivals, debts to gods that loom as large as debts to humans, and the lived experience of mobility without movement. Julie Y. Chu provides wonderfully subtle renderings of passionate and painful longings not to be left behind. One of the most astute and beautifully written ethnographies about China, *Cosmologies of Credit* is a pleasure to read. Lisa Rofel, author of *Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality, and Public Culture*