

AFTER CULTURE

ANTHROPOLOGY AS RADICAL
METAPHYSICAL CRITIQUE

MARK HOBART



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After culture is an exciting and radical critique of ideas of 'culture', based on a series of nuanced studies on Bali by a well-known specialist. The book argues that most interpretations, exemplified by Clifford Geertz's *Interpretive Anthropology*, are inherently flawed as they impose European and American criteria on Balinese practice, thus ignoring the richness and complexity of Balinese thinking about their own lives. An analysis of topics as diverse as human nature, the self, knowledge, reason, ritual, history and interpretation itself shows Balinese understand themselves in ways that are quite distinct from existing accounts. **After Culture** is a refreshing approach to the limits of 'Western' knowledge of other cultures and is necessary reading for anyone interested in questions of culture, philosophy, or understandings of Bali.

Mark Hobart is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at SOAS, University of London. Since 1970, he has carried out over seven years' field research in Bali on village society, indigenous philosophy and problems of culture. Recently he has been working on the social implications of television and contemporary mass media in Indonesia.

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