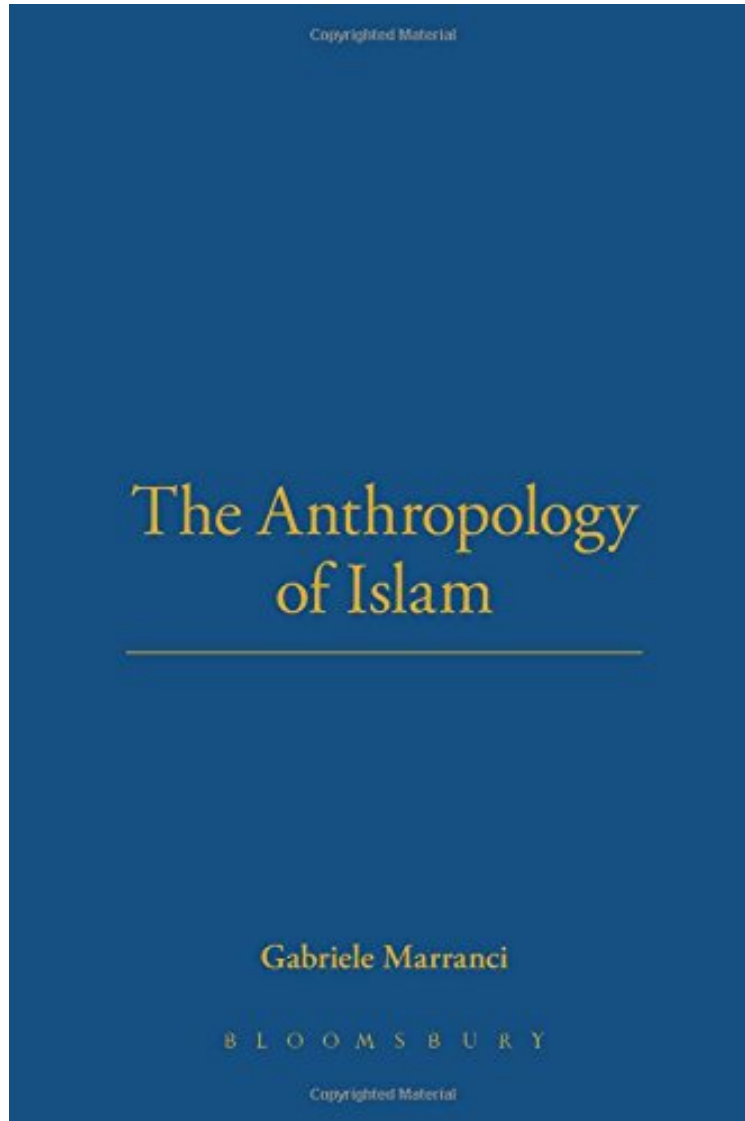


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The Anthropology of Islam

Gabriele Marranci

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Gabriele Marranci : The Anthropology of Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Anthropology of Islam:

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Islam Anthropology By William Garrison Jr. For anthropological students of Islam, the author opines: "I shall suggest that emotions and feelings should be at the centre of our studies of Islam" rather than over-emphasizing the concept that the Islamic religion defines what a Muslim is (p.6). The author rebukes the idea that there is a `Muslim mind theory' - it is a fallacy that argues "that religion induces Muslims to

believe, behave, act, think, argue and develop their identity as Muslims despite their disparate heritages, ethnicities, nationalities, experiences, gender, sexual orientations and, last but not least, mind." Essentially, the author argues that the environment influences the development of a Muslim, rather than the Islamic religion. The author notes that there have been few 'Islamic anthropologists' (some the author acknowledges to be include: Geertz, Gellner, Gilman von Grunbaum -- amongst others). To get some idea regarding the split between anthropologists, the author wrote: "Gellner is not interested in understanding Muslims; rather, like Geertz, he believed he had provided the ultimate explanation of Islam as a cultural system (p.38)." The author argues that Islam is not monolithic. The author explores that anthropological students study the different methodologies used in the sociological analysis of Islam in seeking answers to 'what is the anthropology of Islam?' -- just studying the Quran or undertaking fieldwork, too? The author contends that: "Asad has proposed the blueprint that this discipline lacked" (p.41) - I won't give away Talal Asad's proposal [his 22-page book is available as a free download from Georgetown Univ.]. Can there 'properly' be Muslim lesbians? (p.131) -- based on Islamic culture or Islamic religion? One really isn't going to learn anything about Islam within this paperback, it is more about how the author urges students of Islamic anthropology to understand the different anthropological approaches in studying Islam. A good thought-provoking book, but I believe the author downplays how the Islamic religion influences the 'Muslim mind.' The author notes Daniel Pipes but ignores Robert Spencer. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read! This is definitely more personal than the ...By LavenderFieldsExcellent read! This is definitely more personal than the other books I've read on the same topic.

An increasing number of people have questions about Islam and Muslims. But how can we approach and study Islam after September 11th? Which is the best methodology to understand an Islam that is changing in a globalized world? The Anthropology of Islam argues that Islam today needs to be studied as a living religion through the observation of everyday Muslim life. Drawing on extensive original fieldwork, Marranci provides provocative analyses of Islam and its relation to issues such as identities, politics, culture, power and gender. The Anthropology of Islam is unprecedented in its innovative and challenging discussion about fieldwork among Muslims, and its ethnographically based interpretations of contemporary aspects of Islam in a post-September 11th society. The book will appeal to those in anthropology and beyond who see and are interested in investigating the unsettled place of Islam in our multicultural society.

Marranci offers a critique of anthropology and the attention its scholars have and have not paid to the religion of Islam and to Muslims and their societies. Recommended. L. Beck, CHOICE Magazine A significant contribution to theoretical debates about Muslims, politics, anthropology and ethnographic representations, specifically from the perspective of an anthropology of emotions. It will be worth reading to all those interested in these topics. Religion and Society: Advances in Research An original and intriguing attempt to cover a broad range of themes in a field of research located on the border between the anthropology of religion and the study of Islam. ReligionAbout the AuthorGabriele Marranci is Lecturer in the Anthropology of Religion, School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, University of Aberdeen.