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Seeing and Being Seen: The Q eqchi Maya of Livingston, Guatemala, and Beyond (Paperback)

By Hilary E. Kahn

University of Texas Press, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The practice of morality and the formation of identity among an indigenous Latin American culture are framed in a pioneering ethnography of sight that attempts to reverse the trend of anthropological fieldwork and theory overshadowing one another. In this vital and richly detailed work, methodology and theory are treated as complementary partners as the author explores the dynamic Mayan customs of the Q eqchi people living in the cultural crossroads of Livingston, Guatemala. Here, Q eqchi , Ladino, and Garifuna (Caribbean-coast Afro-Indians) societies interact among themselves and with others ranging from government officials to capitalists to contemporary tourists. The fieldwork explores the politics of sight and incorporates a video camera operated by multiple people-the author and the Q eqchi people themselves-to watch unobtrusively the traditions, rituals, and everyday actions that exemplify the long-standing moral concepts guiding the Q eqchi in their relationships and tribulations. Sharing the camera lens, as well as the lens of ethnographic authority, allows the author to slip into the world of the Q eqchi and capture their moral, social, political, economic, and spiritual constructs shaped by history, ancestry, external forces,...



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