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**Social Sciences : Anthropology**

Siriwardane-de Zoysa, Rapti

# Fishing, Mobility and Settlerhood

**Coastal Socialities in Postwar Sri Lanka**

- One of the first postwar anthropological studies of northeast Sri Lanka, that focuses explicitly on the politics of everyday life in counterinsurgent environments
- Presents empirical advances in the study of co-operation and conflict processes among "deeply divided societies"
- Appeals to a broad range of sub-disciplines through its integrative approach to studying co-operation, and by engaging with conceptual gaps inherent within collective action research and moral economy approaches
- Paves the way for a new thematic research agenda broadly termed as the micro-politics of everyday co-operation

This multi-sited island ethnography illustrates how the embattled politics of (im)mobility, belonging, and patronage among coastal fishing communities in Sri Lanka's militarised northeast have intersected in the wake of civil war. It explores an undertheorized puzzle by asking how the conceptual dualisms between co-operation and contestation simplify the complex lifeworlds of small-scale fishing communities that are often imagined by scholars through allegories of rivalry and resource competition. Drawing on ordinary interpretations and lived practices implicated in the vernacular term sambandam (bearing multiple meanings of intimacy and entanglement), the book traces how intergroup co-operation is both affectively routinised and tactically instrumentalised across coastlines, and at sea. Given its distinct focus on translocal and ethno-religiously plural collectives, the study maps recent historic formations of diverse practices and their contentions, from networked 'piracy' and dynamite fishing, to collective rescue missions and coalitional lobbying. Moreover this work serves as an open invitation to academics, policymakers and activists for re-imagining multiple modes of ethical being and doing, and of everyday sociality among so-called 'deeply divided' societies.

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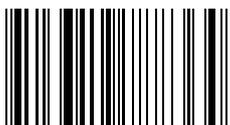
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