



Date : 20/08/2020

Pages : 386

Format cm : 14 x 22

Prix : 27.0

EAN : 9782713228131

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An Ethnography of Public Gatherings in China

Author: Isabelle Thireau

Publisher : Éditions EHESS

Category : Humanities and Non-Fiction

Genres : Ethnology/Anthropology

Keywords : Daily Life - Job - Environment - Trial - Essay

An insider's view of social norms in China today.

How do collective actions occur in an uncertain world? Based on two local gatherings, as emblematic as their configurations are specific, and a close transcription of conversations held on site, Isabelle Thireau sketches the contours of social phenomena that can be found in many situations in China. She shows how forms of association are currently produced, through complex pathways, constant negotiation, and configurations established on often implicit norms. Her analyses go far beyond Victory Square and the safeguarding of Tianjin's heritage, inviting readers attempt to apprehend the many ways of living with uncertainty in China, whether political, economic or social.
