



Summoning the Spirits: Possession and Invocation in Contemporary Religion (Library of Modern Religion)

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Charismatic visions and the role of mediums; possession ceremonies and ecstatic trance; the social contexts and practices of invocation: these are a number of the intriguing topics addressed by this comprehensive undergraduate textbook, the first of its kind to offer a thorough overview of the fascinating and multifaceted subject of spirit possession. The subject is now widely studied in a number of fields -- including religion, sociology, anthropology and cultural studies -- and for some time, there has been a need for a book which offers a multicultural, multi-thematic treatment which can satisfy growing demand and form the basis of focused courses in the area. *Summoning the Spirits* meets that requirement. Avoiding technical jargon and abstruse theorizing, the book offers a representative snapshot of the way the topic is being treated by academics across the world. Its subject range, too, is global, covering such topics as Venda possession in South Africa; the Cuban practice of espiritismo (or mediumship) in Cuba; spirit possession in the Brazilian new religion of Santo Daime; invocation and divine possession amongst Wiccans; and different expressions of spirit domination in Charismatic Christianity. Analyzing themes which recur from context to context (such as agency and meaning, power and gender, cultural hybridism, and globalization), an international team of contributors presents a variety of novel and challenging approaches. This is the ideal starting-point for students looking for a way into the subject.

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