



Homa Variations: The Study of Ritual Change across the Longue Durée (Oxford Ritual Studies)

From Oxford University Press



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Found in many different religious cultures, the practice of making votive offerings into fire dates back to the earliest periods of human history. Throughout the tantric world, this kind of ritual offering practice is known as the homa. With roots in Vedic and Zoroastrian rituals, the tantric homa was formed in early medieval India. Since that time tantric Buddhist practitioners transmitted it to East and Central Asia, and more recently to Europe and the Americas. Today, Hindu forms of the homa are being practiced outside of India as well.

Despite this historical and cultural range, the homa retains an identifiable unity of symbolism and ritual form. *Homa Variations* is the first volume to provide a series of detailed studies of a variety of homa forms. This collection of essays provides an understanding of the history of the homa from its inception up to its use in the present. The book also covers homa practice throughout a wide range of religious cultures, from India and Nepal to Tibet, China, and Japan. The theoretical focus of the collection is the study of ritual change over long periods of time, and across the boundaries of religious cultures. The identifiable unity of the homa allows for an almost unique opportunity to examine ritual change with such a broad perspective.

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- Rank: #2350022 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-12-01
- Released on: 2015-12-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

"Some thirty years ago, the publication of the late *Frits Staal's Agni: The Vedic Ritual of the Fire Altar* marked a significant milestone in the study of Indian religions and, in the second volume of that monumental work, Staal's collaborators began to explore the diffusion of the fire ritual throughout Asia. With *Homa Variations*, Professors Payne and Witzel, together with a group of outstanding contributors, extend that project, bringing to bear the resources of the best current field work, textual scholarship and ritual theory on the diversity of the fire ritual in Hindu and Buddhist milieux." --Matthew T. Kapstein, École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris) and The University of Chicago

About the Author

Richard K. Payne is Yehan Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhist Studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley.

Michael Witzel is Wales Professor of Sanskrit at Harvard University.

Users Review

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Maryanna Kuhns:

This book untitled *Homa Variations: The Study of Ritual Change across the Longue Durée (Oxford Ritual Studies)* to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retail store or you can order it by using online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

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