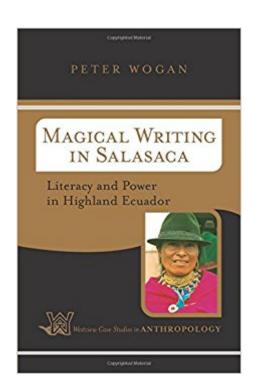


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Magical Writing In Salasaca: Literacy And Power In Highland Ecuador (Westview Case Studies In Anthropology)





Synopsis

This engaging case study of Salasaca, a village in highland Ecuador, examines indigenous beliefs about writing, such as Day of the Dead name lists, comparisons with weaving, and a witch who kills people listed in his book of names. Magical Writing in Salasaca demonstrates that these beliefs reflect extensive contact with birth certificates, baptism records, and other church and state documents. Wogan's inquiry into the place of literacy in the Salasacas' worldview provides a nuanced look at the power relations between elites and nonelite villagers, at the same time that it imparts an empathetic understanding of alternative ways of viewing ostensibly familiar aspects of the world. Magical Writing in Salasaca will appeal to anyone interested in anthropology, literacy, power, or Latin America.

Book Information

Series: Westview Case Studies in Anthropology

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Westview Press (August 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813341515

ISBN-13: 978-0813341514

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #514,541 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in A A Books > History >

Americas > South America > Ecuador #543 inà Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History >

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Customer Reviews

Peter Wogan is assistant professor of anthropology at Willamette University.

Wonderfully explains the tradition of Magical literacy in Salasaca, Ecuador. Explores the relationship traditional Salasacans have with literacy in weaving, witchcraft and writing. A solid and thought provoking reading experience.

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