

Human Minds and Cultures

Sanjit Chakraborty
Editor

Human Minds and Cultures

 Springer

Editor

Sanjit Chakraborty
School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Vellore Institute of Technology-AP University
Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, India

ISBN 978-3-031-56447-5 ISBN 978-3-031-56448-2 (eBook)
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-56448-2>

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2024

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors, and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Paper in this product is recyclable.

*This book is dedicated to my parents—
Mrs. Pushpa Chakraborty and
Mr. Sunil Chakraborty, inspirations of my
academic quests!*

Preface

Aiming for multicultural spectrum and philosophical explorations that could help us reflect on the pursuit of envisaging human minds and cultures as a decisive panorama of philosophy and social sciences, the standalone thematic volume titled *Human Minds and Cultures* presents a harmonious analysis of the similarities and differences between two concepts: human minds and cultures. The book rests on a theoretical account of the essential relationship between the dualities of minds and matters found in semantic-ontological conjectures. Cultural scientism, an evolutionary scaffold on the functionalist shift, is limited in its extent by the ethnographic understanding of cultures, which allows one to envision cultural phenomena from the resolution of scientific conjectures. Thus, cultural relativism acknowledges that cultures include descriptive elements that individuals or groups of people adhere to, such as customs, beliefs, moral standards, and other minds. Besides, the idea of a “semiotic conception of culture,” which centers on the idea of ethical theorizing, employs modernism and values in its vision of social semiotics. *Human Minds and Cultures* remarkably aligns with the cultural structure of moral minds and addresses the ever-present issues of gender, law, ethics, and sociopolitical events. For anyone with a keen interest in minds and cultures, this is an essential reading.

So here is the book, and it’s been amazing putting it together. Too much bogged down in diversified academic and nonacademic commitments sparks thoughts that it would have been a more engaging volume if the writings of a couple of more distinguished thinkers had been included at the last moment. The authors who have contributed to the volume are stellar in their fields. Professor Harry Gensler passed away before the publication of this volume, and we greatly missed him. I’m quite indebted for what he added to the volume.

Other intellectual obligations go to my good friends and mentors, the late Hilary Putnam, Noam Chomsky, Amartya Sen, Martha Nussbaum, Frank Jackson, Jan Narveson, Deborah Poff, Duncan Pritchard, Robin Le Poidevin, Jeffery Long, and many others, for their philosophical déjeuners.

Mr. Christopher Wilby, my editor at Springer Nature, is much more than just a professional associate, and I amenablely thank him and other Springer team members for everything they have done for the book. I am grateful for the supportive and encouraging academic environment provided by my colleagues at VIT-AP University and my former institution, IISER Kolkata.

Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, India

Sanjit Chakraborty

Contents

Human Minds and Cultures: An Introduction	1
Sanjit Chakraborty	
Thoughts on Morality and Culture	19
Jan Narveson	
Values and Cultures	29
Harry J. Gensler	
Clashes of Culture	73
Michael Smith	
Hatred: Why Do Such Nice People Do Such Awful Things?	89
Michael Ruse	
Neoliberalism, Globalization and Discrimination in the Twenty-First Century: Issues, Challenges and Limitations of Habermas' Reason-Based Theory of Liberal Democracy in Current Times	109
Deborah C. Poff	
Legal Emotions: Why Affect Matters for Law	123
Antara Haldar	
The Epistemic Argument for Hedonism	137
Neil Sinhababu	
The Interpreting Mind and Meaning-Formation: A Relational Critique of Lyotard and Ricœur	159
Gerald Cipriani	
Recurring Dilemmas on Other Minds	175
Sanjit Chakraborty	
References	189

Contributors

Sanjit Chakraborty School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vellore Institute of Technology-AP University, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, India

Gerald Cipriani Graduate Institute of Philosophy, National Central University, Taoyuan City, Taiwan

Harry J. Gensler Loyola University, Chicago, IL, USA

Antara Haldar University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

Jan Narveson University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada

Deborah C. Poff Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Michael Ruse Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA

Neil Sinhababu National University of Singapore, Kallipolis, Singapore

Michael Smith Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA