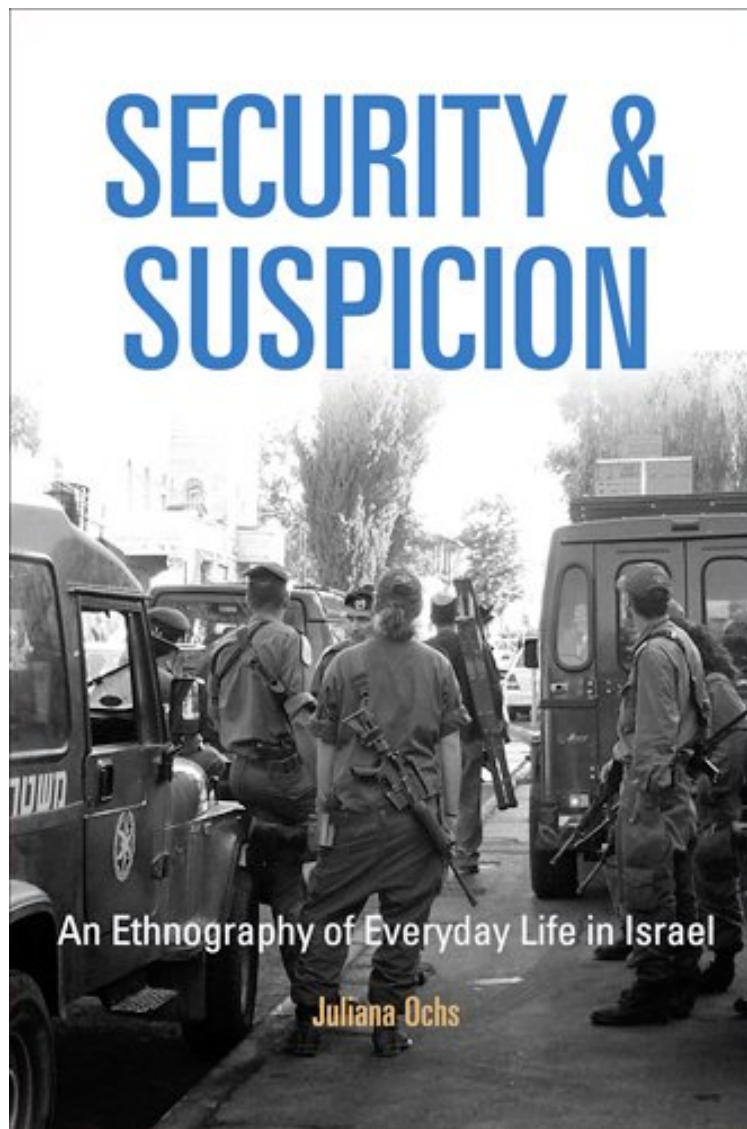


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## Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel (The Ethnography of Political Violence)

*Juliana Ochs*

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**Juliana Ochs : Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel (The Ethnography of Political Violence)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel (The Ethnography of Political Violence):

In Israel, gates, fences, and walls encircle public spaces while guards scrutinize, inspect, and interrogate. With a population constantly aware of the possibility of suicide bombings, Israel is defined by its culture of security. *Security and Suspicion* is a closely drawn ethnographic study of the way Israeli Jews experience security in their everyday lives. Observing security concerns through an anthropological lens, Juliana Ochs investigates the relationship between perceptions of danger and the political strategies of the state. Ochs argues that everyday security practices create exceptional states of civilian alertness that perpetuate rather than mitigate national fear and ongoing violence. In Israeli cities, customers entering gated urban cafes open their handbags for armed security guards and parents circumnavigate feared neighborhoods to deliver their children safely to school. Suspicious objects appear to be everywhere, as Israelis internalize the state's vigilance for signs of potential suicide bombers. Fear and suspicion not only permeate political rhetoric, writes Ochs, but also condition how people see, the way they move, and the way they relate to Palestinians. Ochs reveals that in Israel everyday practices of security in the home, on commutes to work, or in cafes and restaurants are as much a part of conflict as soldiers and military checkpoints. Based on intensive fieldwork in Israel during the second intifada, *Security and Suspicion* charts a new approach to issues of security while contributing to our appreciation of the subtle dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This book offers a way to understand why security propagates the very fears and suspicions it is supposed to reduce.

"[*Security and Suspicion*] is rich in ethnographic detail and balances attention to subjectivity, habits, rhetoric, and behavior. It is critical of structures and practices yet simultaneously deeply empathetic with the subjects who struggle to find peace amidst violence. The book's conclusion that the practice of security might make Israelis feel less secure rather than more is an intervention of tremendous significance. . . . An excellent book." *American Ethnologist* "*Security and Suspicion* is at once an ethnographic account of daily life in Israel during the second intifada, and an introduction and then some to the ethnography of security in the post-9/11 world. Juliana Ochs probes embodiment, fear and fantasy as registers of security and insecurity in a contemporary landscape where normal life is politicized through the threat and actuality of violence. Her account of everyday sociability is nuanced and keenly observed; the implications of her analysis of the visceral quality of state legitimation constitute a significant contribution to the ethnography of politics in the 21st century." Carol Greenhouse, Princeton University "An empirically rich, interpretively savvy, and compelling addition to a growing body of literature that examines security practices, materiality, fantasies, and discourses." *Middle East Journal* "The author's honest, conceptually strong, and well-written presentation focuses only on Israeli Jews, specifically, the families she was closest to and the activities she engaged in for a limited time in Jerusalem and Arad. Ochs skillfully locates her ethnographic work not a psychological study (despite close attention to fear and anxiety), but an examination of everyday life and its intersection with state security and nation building in the contemporary history and political economy of Israeli society." *Choice* About the Author Juliana Ochs is Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow at the Princeton University Art Museum.