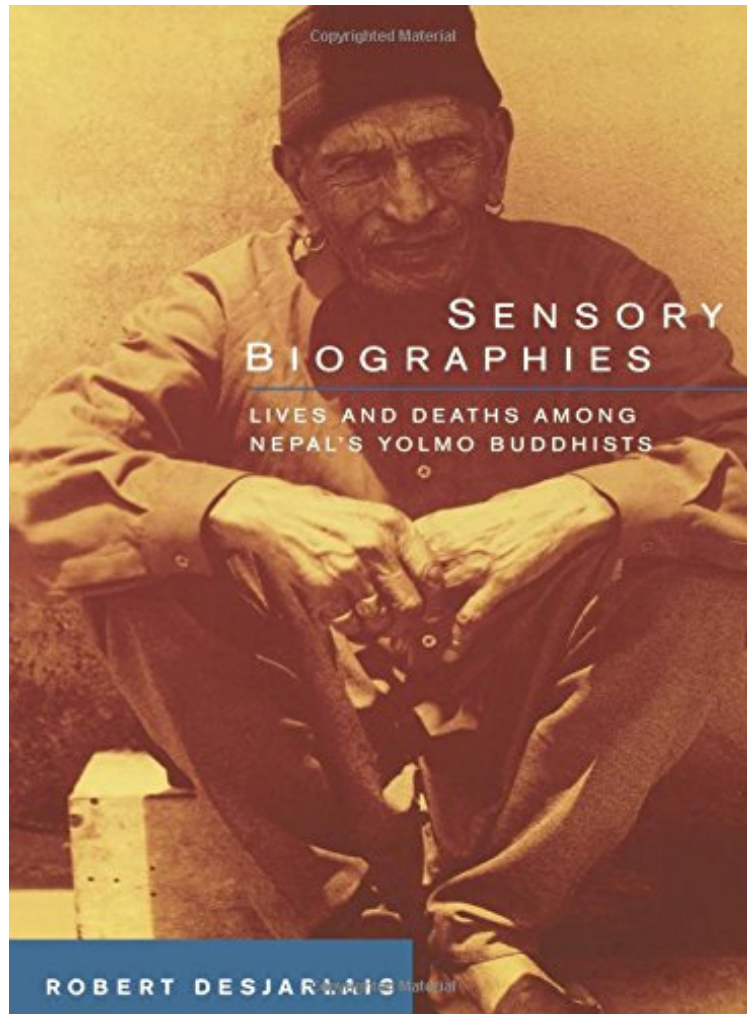


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Sensory Biographies: Lives and Deaths among Nepal's Yolmo Buddhists

Robert R. Desjarlais

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Robert R. Desjarlais : Sensory Biographies: Lives and Deaths among Nepal's Yolmo Buddhists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sensory Biographies: Lives and Deaths among Nepal's Yolmo Buddhists:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Important ethnographic studyBy IncantissimoRobert Desjarlais is considered one of the most interesting psychological anthropologists of his generation. In the past, he has written on shamanistic practices and developed interesting ethnographic and methodological theories (with particular interest in phenomenology). Recently, he has been confident enough to discount some of his past approaches (the idea that one can fully 'enter into' a role in a foreign culture, and then inhabit that role and analyze the experiences one has as if they

are the same as those people one is studying), and has therefore been enabled to move onto breaking new ground in anthropological theory. Others could learn from his example. In this current work -- beautifully designed and well presented, and a pleasure to read given Desjarlais's style at writing -- he looks at a few select individuals among Nepal's Yolmo Buddhist community. He delves deeply into their lives, rather than providing a more general study of the community and culture (although this necessary context is of course provided). Although this book will have a somewhat restricted audience, and is not a general work, it should be most interesting to psychological anthropologists, ethnographers in general, and those interested in the region and in Tibetan and Nepalese Buddhism. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. feel very good .By Vincent Springhalljimmy love it , great and good experience. Nice and valuable. just fine. Heavy product with good balance

Robert Desjarlais's graceful ethnography explores the life histories of two Yolmo elders, focusing on how particular sensory orientations and modalities have contributed to the making and the telling of their lives. These two are a woman in her late eighties known as Kisang Omu and a Buddhist priest in his mid-eighties known as Ghang Lama, members of an ethnically Tibetan Buddhist people whose ancestors have lived for three centuries or so along the upper ridges of the Yolmo Valley in north central Nepal. It was clear through their many conversations that both individuals perceived themselves as nearing death, and both were quite willing to share their thoughts about death and dying. The difference between the two was remarkable, however, in that Ghang Lama's life had been dominated by motifs of vision, whereas Kisang Omu's accounts of her life largely involved a "theatre of voices." Desjarlais offers a fresh and readable inquiry into how people's ways of sensing the world contribute to how they live and how they recollect their lives.

"One of the most powerful ethnographies in any field that I have read in recent years...a model of anthropological analysis that addresses questions on the cutting edge of the discipline."-Veena Das, author of *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India* From the Inside Flap "One of the most powerful ethnographies in any field that I have read in recent years. A model of anthropological analysis that addresses questions on the cutting edge of the discipline."Veena Das, author of *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*