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Studies on embodiment processes have gained importance in contemporary anthropology, philosophy, psychology and sociology, stimulating renewals in theoretical as well as methodological perspectives: power is no longer considered an abstract and external force, but it is observed in its microphysical fragmentation and influence on the body. This leads to the need for more emphasis on practical and political aspects of embodiment in order to study power relations in their concrete manifestations, as well as in the practical life of institutions - first of all the state. This edited volume collects ethnographic works by several scholars from America and Europe: accounts of the bodily life of the state with discussions of the concepts of agency, intimacy, power, embodiment, suffering, pain, violence, dance and the politics of heritage. The aim is to contribute to a common ground of dialogue between ethnographies of embodiment and of politics and the analysis of the state in order to investigate the bodily life of state powers.

Gli studi sui processi di incorporazione hanno ormai acquisito una notevole importanza in antropologia, filosofia, psicologia e sociologia, stimolando il rinnovamento delle prospettive teoriche e metodologiche: il potere non è più considerato come una forza esterna e astratta, ma è osservato concretamente nella sua frammentazione microfisica e in rapporto alle influenze che esso ha sul corpo. Si riconosce l'esigenza di una maggiore enfasi sugli aspetti pratici e politici dell'incorporazione, in modo da studiare i rapporti di potere nelle loro manifestazioni concrete, cioè nella vita pratica delle istituzioni: in primo luogo, dello stato. Questo volume monografico raccoglie contributi etnografici di antropologi americani ed europei: resoconti etnografici e riflessioni su agentività, intimità, potere, incorporazione, sofferenza, dolore, violenza, danza e politiche del patrimonio. Obiettivo principale è costruire un terreno comune di dialogo fra le etnografie dell'incorporazione e della politica e l'analisi dello stato, in vista di nuove ricerche sulla vita corporea dei poteri statali.

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