

Nature, Culture, and Society

Life is currently one of the most active zones of politics and economic production, as biological material is increasingly the subject of engineering, banking, reproduction, and exchange. These developments represent some of the most challenging issues facing humanity in the twenty-first century and call for new forms of engagement – and new anthropologies of life.

Reflecting upon the changing human condition, Palsson addresses various conflated zones of life at particular times and scales, from the genome to the human body and the global environment. Using a “biosocial” perspective, he argues, will help us to capture the hybrid nature of life, enhancing our sensitivity to differences and similarities in hierarchies, the reproduction of bio-objects and the exchanges between humans, other species, and the environment.

Engaging with topical issues on the public agenda, from personal genomics to human–animal relations to the global environment, the book sets out a compelling case for meaningful change.

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Anthropological Perspectives on Life

Gisli Palsson



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