

## BEING CHANGED . . . *reviews*

"This is a challenging and thought-provoking book. Ten anthropologists testify frankly and openly about the spiritual encounters and altered states of consciousness which they experienced as their fieldwork drew them into deepening relationships with their hosts and consultants in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Sensitively confronting the personal dimensions of their research, their essays explore the ways in which participatory anthropology fosters a creative synergy between enhanced self-knowledge and deeper understanding of others."

Jennifer S. H. Brown, History Department,  
University of Winnipeg.

"Anthropology presents its fieldworkers with a paradox. The methodological approach of participant-observation says that anthropologists should try to experience the world the way their subjects do. Yet the discipline, a Western science, tends not to take seriously accounts of mystical, transcendent experiences.

Here are 12 essays by 10 anthropologists who do take seriously their informants' accounts of dreams, visions, trance states, spirit encounters, etc. Some report on their own 'extraordinary experiences' generated within the reality of their informants' culture.

This is a book about culture, and reality, and ways of knowing, and its premise is that this type of experience may be essential to the fullest understanding of cultural reality. It raises and discusses challenging theoretical and methodological questions, with important implications for the conduct of our discipline. It is an important book, ground-breaking—and overdue."

Phillips Stevens Jr., Department of Anthropology,  
State University of New York, Buffalo.

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*The Anthropology of  
Extraordinary Experience*

*Edited by  
David E. Young & Jean-Guy Goulet*



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