Freedoms of Speech

Anthropological Perspectives on Language, Ethics, and Power

EDITED BY MATEI CANDEA, TARAS FEDIRKO, PAOLO HEYWOOD, AND FIONA WRIGHT

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Bringing together leading anthropologists, this collection sheds light on the vast topic of freedoms of speech from a comparatively human perspective. *Freedoms of Speech* provides a sustained, empirical exploration of the variety of ways freedom of speech is lived, valued, and contested in practice; envisioned as an ideal; and mediated by various linguistic, ethical, and material forms.

From Ireland to India, from Palestine to West Papua, from contemporary Java to early twentieth-century Britain, and from colonial Vietnam to the contemporary United States, the book broadly interrogates the classic vision of a singular "Western liberal tradition" of freedom of speech, exploring its internal complexities and highlighting alternative perspectives on the relationship between speech, freedom, and constraint in various times and places. Chapters analyse subjects commonly linked to freedom-of-speech debates, shedding new light on familiar topics that include campus speech codes, defamation, and press freedom, while also exploring unexpected ones such as therapy, gift-giving, and martyrdom. These analyses not only provide unexpected perspectives and unique insights but also address a myriad of questions, contributing to a rich, interdisciplinary, and human understanding of the nature of freedom of speech.

(Studies in the Anthropology of Language, Sign, and Social Life)

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Studies in the Anthropology of Language, Sign, and Social Life focuses on cutting-edge developments in the analysis of linguistic and semiotic processes within a comparative, ethnographic, and socio-historical context. The series provides a home for innovative, boundary-pushing scholarship in linguistic anthropology, as well as work in sociolinguistics, the sociology of interaction, and semiotics. Including both ethnographic monographs and theoretical explorations, books in this series present new ways of understanding the centrality of language and other sign systems to social and cultural life.

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