

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910298074603321
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Titolo	Mainstream Polygamy : The Non-Marital Child Paradox In The West // by Dominique Legros
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : Springer New York : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2014
ISBN	1-4614-8307-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2014.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (119 p.)
Collana	Anthropology and Ethics, , 2195-0822 ; ; 2
Disciplina	306.8423
Soggetti	Anthropology Sociology Sociology, general
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. In Praise of Exotopy -- Chapter 2. Monogamy? Exoticizing a 3000 Year Old Pre-Christian Western Tradition -- Chapter 3. Mistress, Concubine, Spouse, Lover or Paramour? The Need for a Cross-Culturally Valid Definition of Marriage -- Chapter 4. Anthropologizing Traditional Marriage in France -- Chapter 5. Legislating Polygyny and Polyandry in Mainstream France -- Chapter 6. The Geographical Extent of Western Mainstream Polygamy: Europe, North America, and Latin America -- Chapter 7. Constraints in Cultural Engineering, Exotopic Observation and Truth.
Sommario/riassunto	This volume explores the forms of knowledge generated by exoticizing the subject studied. It analyzes monogamy in Western cultures from a cultural distance. First, from the cultural perspective of a Kenyan writer who underlines the moral evils unwittingly generated by a system imposing universal monogamy and generating annual cohorts of illegitimate children. Then, the essay considers the case of France, which, starting in the 1970's, changed its laws regarding children born out of wedlock. Such children have now become legitimate. Unwittingly, this has allowed for polygyny or polyandry to become legal options for French males and females. The analysis is further extended to Western Europe, two Latin American nations and to the contemporary U.S.A. with its polyamory movement, where legal outcomes similar to those of

France have occurred. The volume examines monogamy by using the epistemological approach that is typically used in the anthropological study of cultures other than one's own, showing how exotic and strange the system of monogamy can look, when observed from afar, from the eyes of many non-Westerners. It gives insight into planes of the human Western experience that would normally remain invisible. Students and teachers will delight in the close-to-home debates stimulated by this evocative thought-provoking essay.
