

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910793453503321
Titolo	An empire of others : making ethnographic knowledge in imperial Russia and the USSR // edited by Roland Cvetkovski and Alexis Hofmeister
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Budapest ; ; New York : , : Central European University Press, , 2013
ISBN	963-386-242-6 615-5225-77-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vi, 407 pages) : illustrations
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Disciplina	305.800947
Soggetti	Ethnology - Russia - History Ethnology - Soviet Union - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: on the making of ethnographic knowledge in Russia / Roland Cvetkovski -- Imperial case studies: Russian and British ethnographic theory / Alexis Hofmeister -- Paradigms. Russian ethnography as a science: truths claimed, trails followed / Alexei Elfimov ; Beyond, against, and with ethnography: physical anthropology as a science of Russian modernity / Marina Mogilner ; Ethnography, Marxism and Soviet ideology / Sergei Alymov ; Ethnogenesis and historiography: historical narratives for Central Asia, 1940s-1950s / Sergey Abashin -- Representations. Symbols, conventions and practices: visual representation of ethnographic knowledge on Siberia in early modern maps and reports / Maïke Sach ; Empire complex: arrangements in the Russian ethnographic museum, 1910 / Roland Cvetkovski ; Learning about the nation: ethnographical representations of children, representations of ethnography for children / Catriona Kelly -- Peoples. Siberian ruptures: dilemmas of ethnography in imperial situation / Sergey glebov ; Concepts of Ukrainian folklore and the transition from imperial Russia to Stalin's Soviet empire / Angela Rustemeyer ; No love affair: Ingush and Chechen imperial ethnographies / Christian Dettmering ; National inventions: the imperial emancipation of the Karaites from jewishness / Mikhail Kizilov.

Ethnographers helped to perceive, to understand and also to shape imperial as well as Soviet Russia's cultural diversity. This volume focuses on the contexts in which ethnographic knowledge was created. Usually, ethnographic findings were superseded by imperial discourse: Defining regions, connecting them with ethnic origins and conceiving national entities necessarily implied the mapping of political and historical hierarchies. But beyond these spatial conceptualizations the essays particularly address the specific conditions in which ethnographic knowledge appeared and changed. On the one hand, they turn to the several fields into which ethnographic knowledge poured and materialized, i.e., history, historiography, anthropology or ideology. On the other, they equally consider the impact of the specific formats, i.e., pictures, maps, atlases, lectures, songs, museums, and exhibitions, on academic as well as non-academic manifestations.

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