Record Nr. UNINA9910814521603321 Autore Geurts Kathryn Linn <1960-> Titolo Culture and the senses [[electronic resource]]: bodily ways of knowing in an African community / / Kathryn Linn Geurts Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2002 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-76272-9 9786612762727 1-59734-564-4 0-520-93654-X Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (350 p.) Collana Ethnographic studies in subjectivity;; 3 Classificazione **CP 2000** Disciplina 155.8/4963374 Soggetti Anlo (African people) - Psychology Anlo (African people) - Socialization Senses and sensation 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 (p. 285-307) and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Note on Transliteration and Orthography -- Map of Southeastern Ghana -- 1. Is There a Sixth Sense? -- 2. Anlo-Land and Anlo-Ewe People -- 3. Language and Sensory Orientations -- 4. Kinesthesia and the Development of Moral Sensibilities -- 5. Sensory Symbolism in Birth and Infant Care Practices -- 6. Toward an Understanding of Anlo Forms of Being-in-the-World -- 7. Personhood and Ritual Reinforcement of Balance -- 8. Anlo Cosmology, the Senses, and Practices of Protection -- 9. Well-Being, Strength, and Health in Anlo Worlds -- 10. Sensory Experience and Cultural Identity -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto Adding her stimulating and finely framed ethnography to recent work in the anthropology of the senses. Kathryn Geurts investigates the cultural meaning system and resulting sensorium of Anlo-Ewespeaking people in southeastern Ghana. Geurts discovered that the five-senses model has little relevance in Anlo culture, where balance is

> a sense, and balancing (in a physical and psychological sense as well as in literal and metaphorical ways) is an essential component of what it

means to be human. Much of perception falls into an Anlo category of seselelame (literally feel-feel-at-flesh-inside), in which what might be considered sensory input, including the Western sixth-sense notion of "intuition," comes from bodily feeling and the interior milieu. The kind of mind-body dichotomy that pervades Western European-Anglo American cultural traditions and philosophical thought is absent. Geurts relates how Anlo society privileges and elaborates what we would call kinesthesia, which most Americans would not even identify as a sense. After this nuanced exploration of an Anlo-Ewe theory of inner states and their way of delineating external experience, readers will never again take for granted the "naturalness" of sight, touch, taste, hearing, and smell.