Record Nr. UNINA9910818397103321 Autore Wilson Ara Titolo The intimate economies of Bangkok: tomboys, tycoons, and Avon ladies in the global city / / Ara Wilson Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2004 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-35976-2 9786612359767 0-520-93743-0 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (288 p.) Disciplina 381/.1/09593 Sex role - Thailand - Bangkok Soggetti Capitalism - Social aspects - Thailand - Bangkok Globalization Women - Thailand - Social conditions Women - Thailand - Economic conditions Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Materiale a stampa **Formato** Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Notes Nota di contenuto On Transliteration And Dates -- Introduction: Intimate Economies -- 1. From Shophouse To Department Store -- 2. The Economies Of Intimacy In The Go-Go Bar -- 3. MBK: The Retail Revolution And The Infrastructure Of Romance -- 4. The Flexible Citizens Of IBC Cable TV -- 5. The Avon Lady, The Amway Plan, And The Making Of Thai Entrepreneurs -- Conclusion: The Intimacy Of Capitalism -- Notes --Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto Bangkok has been at the frontier of capitalism's drive into the global south for three decades. Rapid development has profoundly altered public and private life in Thailand. In her provocative study of contemporary commerce in Bangkok, Ara Wilson captures the intimate effects of the global economy in this vibrant city. The Intimate Economies of Bangkok is a multifaceted portrait of the intertwining of identities, relationships, and economics during Bangkok's boom years.

Using innovative case studies of women's and men's participation in a range of modern markets-department stores, go-go bars, a popular

downtown mall, a telecommunications company, and the direct sales corporations Amway and Avon-Wilson chronicles the powerful expansion of capitalist exchange into further reaches of Thai society. She shows how global economies have interacted with local systems to create new kinds of lifestyles, ranging from "tomboys" to corporate tycoons to sex workers. Combining feminist theory with classic anthropological understandings of exchange, this historically grounded ethnography maps the reverberations of gender, sexuality, and ethnicity at the hub of Bangkok's modern economy.