



Orient BlackSwan

DOING THEORY

Locations, Hierarchies and Disjunctions



edited by

Maitrayee Chaudhuri
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ABOUT THE BOOK

Sociology/social anthropology rests on the fundamental distinction between commonsense and theoretically informed knowledge. It teaches us to get rid of 'perceptions' and alerts us to go beyond taken-for-granted ideas. The paradox is that although theory is taught as a mandatory paper in sociology, it is often understood in a fashion that empties it of its critical potential. It is either reduced to a topic in the syllabi or used as ceremonial citations. Emphasising that theories emerge in specific historical contexts and are embedded in economic, political, social, cultural, institutional, and intellectual processes, *Doing Theory* takes a new approach by highlighting the sociological routes through which theories travel and are adopted by institutions in different parts of the country. The contributors search for an 'indigenous' theory within sociology in India; theorise the 'nation' and 'nationalism', caste and modernity; industrial and media sociology; and study the disconnect between theory taught within the classroom and theory practised in the world outside.

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