

In previous studies of South Asian Tantric ritual, scholars tend to focus on one region or context. For the first time, *Tantra, Ritual Performance, and Politics in Nepal and Kerala* offers a comparative approach to Tantric mediumship as observed in two locales: *Navadurgā* rituals in Bhaktapur, Nepal, and *Teyyāṭṭam* in North Kerala. In this book, Matthew Martin advances a new theory of ritual, which spotlights the way dancer-mediums embody medieval goddess-clans and ancestor deities, through offerings of food and sacrifice, that synchronize their denizens with the land in spiralling web-like ritual networks. Uniquely interdisciplinary in style, this study synthesizes cultural history, ethnography, and theory to explore the continuities – historical, societal, and political – that characterize these ritual traditions across the subcontinent.

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