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biodiversity in small spaces

biodiversity in small spaces reexamines the conservation of biodiversity in small places and focuses on the interplay of memory, identity, and affect in shaping the fabric of biodiversity in the present and future. Books reflect the concerns of many communities as they face the challenges of globalization and highlight creative responses to these challenges by focusing on ongoing, informal, and place-based biodiversity conservation carried out by local farmers and gardeners, Indigenous peoples, women, immigrants, and refugees.

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EMBODYING BIODIVERSITY

SENSORY CONSERVATION AS REFUGE
AND SOVEREIGNTY

EDITED BY TERESE V. GAGNON

Demonstrating the enduring impact of grassroots efforts and individual stewarding of plant biodiversity

Harnessing a myriad of methodologies and research spanning multiple continents, this volume delves into the power of everyday forms of biodiversity conservation, motivated by sensory and embodied engagement with plants. Through an array of interdisciplinary contributions, the authors argue that the vast majority of biodiversity conservation worldwide is carried out not by large-scale, hierarchical initiatives but by ordinary people who cultivate sensory-motivated, place-based bonds with plants.

Acknowledging the monumental role of everyday champions in tending biodiversity, the contributors write that this caretaking is crucial to countering ecological harm and global injustice stemming from colonial violence and racial capitalism.

TERESE V. GAGNON is an environmental and political anthropologist. She is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the co-editor of *Moveable Gardens: Itineraries and Sanctuaries of Memory*.

“Embodying Biodiversity is a moving exaltation and eye-opening homage to everyday practices of sensuous conservation, undertaken by plants and people who are bound by intimate and affective relations of care, knowledge, and nourishment, and that persist in the face of racial colonial capitalism. The volume’s granular attention to bodily engagements, emergent sovereignties, and rooted co-becomings offers a vital counterpoint to the paralyzing politics of despair so often generated in Anthropocenic times. In highlighting possibilities for harmonious human-vegetal flourishings across space and generations, Embodying Biodiversity artfully and sensitively opens our senses to the hopes harbored by biocultural refuges that are shared across kin and kind.”

—Sophie Chao, author of *In the Shadow of the Palms: More-Than-Human Becomings in West Papua*

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