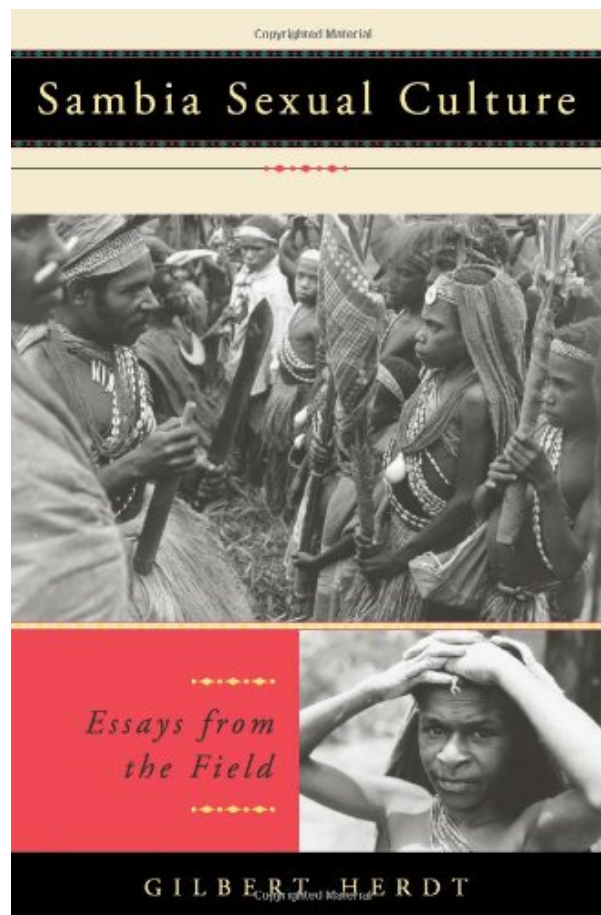


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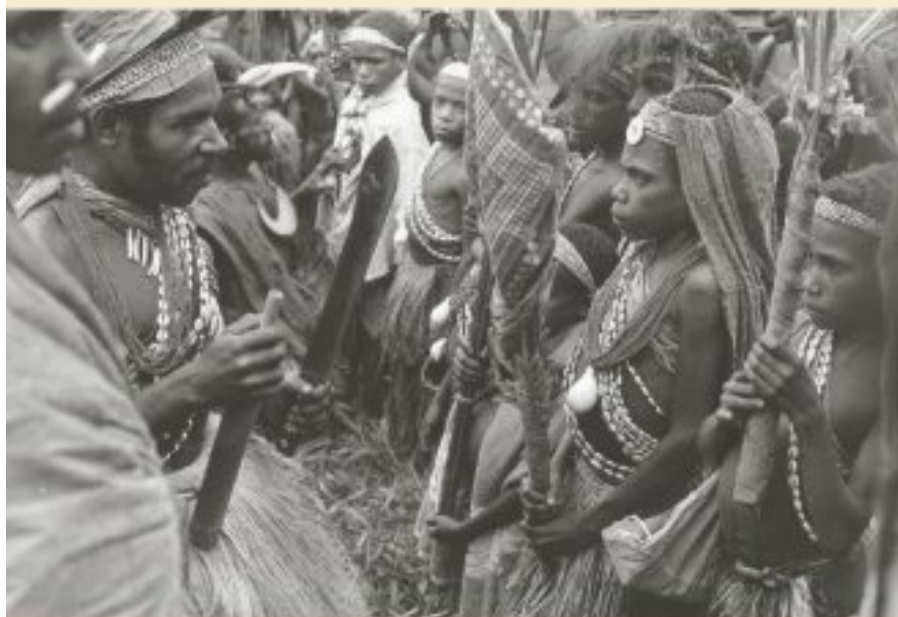


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These nine essays, published between 1980 and 1991, approach male homosexual practices among a Papua New Guinea society Herdt (anthropology, San Francisco State Univ.) refers to as the Sambia. There is also a good deal of theoretical discussion of sexual identity in a cross-cultural framework. Much of this material has also appeared in Herdt's *Guardians of the Flutes* and *The Sambia: Ritual and Gender in New Guinea*. For the most part, these essays are concerned with description and analysis of the ritualized insemination of young boys by older males. While Herdt takes great care to relativize the homosexual aspects of these practices, it is striking how little there is in the way of commentary on the matter of elders taking sexual advantage of children, a topic of considerable immediacy in contemporary America. For academic and larger public libraries. A Glenn Petersen, CUNY
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About the Author

Gilbert Herdt is professor and director of the Graduate Program in Human Sexuality at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco and director emeritus of the National Sexuality Resource Center at San Francisco State University. His books include *Sambia Sexual Culture: Essays from the Field*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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Few cultures have received as much attention in the study of erotic desire, sexuality, and gender as the Sambia of Papua New Guinea. Here, for the first time, is a collection of groundbreaking essays and a new introduction on the Sambia's sexual culture by the renowned anthropologist Gilbert Herdt.

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- Sales Rank: #2037108 in Books
- Color: Multicolor
- Published on: 1999-06-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .70" w x 6.00" l, 1.07 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 335 pages

From Library Journal

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Repetitious recycling of some important work

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Herdt has spilled millions of word about pederastic initiation among the people he has called the Sambia. Anyone but a hardcore, masochistic anthropologist would do better to read his Holt book *The Sambia* than this minimally edited, highly repetitious recycling of some of his journal articles. The introduction is particularly opaque and unhelpful. Herdt is a recovering Freudian who takes a thousand words to say what could be said clearly in a sentence.

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