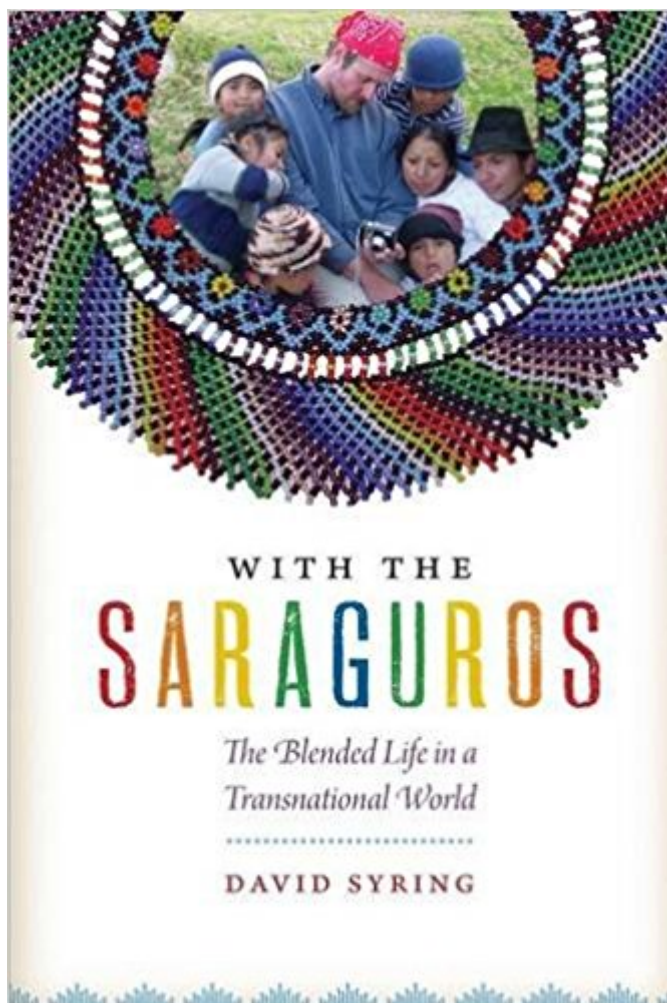


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With The Saraguros: The Blended Life In A Transnational World



Synopsis

Highlighting globalization's effects on humanity through the lens of Ecuador's indigenous Saraguro people, *With the Saraguros* marks a compelling departure from conventional approaches to ethnography. While documenting and exploring the social patterns among the Saraguro, with an emphasis on the role of women beadworkers, David Syring blends storytelling, dialogue, poetry, and memoir to describe his own realm as a fieldworker in anthropology. As he considers the influence of women's labor in a community in which the artistry of beadwork is richly symbolic, he also considers how the Saraguro view their observers—the anthropologists. Probing the role of researchers in a time when basic humanistic questions now often reflect a critical balance between commerce and sustainability, *With the Saraguros* asks, "What does it mean to live 'the good life' in different cultural contexts, and how does our work life relate to this pursuit?" For those who have chosen a work life of anthropology, Syring captures the impact of fieldwork—which uproots the researcher from his or her daily routine—and its potential to deliver new levels of consciousness. The result constitutes more than just the first English-language book dedicated to the dynamic creativity of the Saraguro, contextualized by their social and political history; Syring's work, which ranges from the ecological imagination to the metaphors of trade, is also a profound meditation on the ways we experience boundaries now that borders no longer create sharply drawn divides between cultural worlds, and "distant" no longer means "separate."

Book Information

Paperback: 181 pages

Publisher: University of Texas Press; Reprint edition (November 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1477309810

ISBN-13: 978-1477309810

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,153,381 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Ecuador #7258 in Books > History > Americas > Native American #15649 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > Cultural

Customer Reviews

"Excellent academic content laced with reflexivity, humor, and experiential fieldwork anecdotes. . . .

Should be required reading in an Æœ ethnographic tool kit Æœ Æœ students take with them."
(Dr. Andrea Heckman, University of New Mexico, and author of Woven Stories: Andean Textiles and Rituals)

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(Dr. Andrea Heckman, University of New Mexico, and author of Woven Stories: Andean Textiles and Rituals)

As a recently retired professor of anthropology I found this book to be the perfect text for students and for any travelers who are tuned into considering how we can know another culture. Dr. Syring looks at himself and his own culture as well as sharing what the Sarguro have generously shared with him. For anyone going to Ecuador or traveling to countries with indigenous groups, I wholeheartedly recommend this book. - Julia Rux, PhD Georgia State University, Perimeter College, Atlanta, GA.

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