

ENHANCING LIFE BIBLIOGRAPHY

JASON DANELY (Anthropology)

Mattingly, Cheryl. 2014. *Moral Laboratories: Family Peril and the Struggle for a Good Life*. University of California Press.

Mattingly strikes a skilful balance between ethical philosophy and psychological anthropology with what she calls a “narrative phenomenology” of “first-person virtue ethics.” Through following the lives of families’ everyday struggles to envision a life in the midst of life-threatening illness, Mattingly recognizes the hopeful potential and self-transformations as ordinary people seek a ‘good life’.

Stevenson, Lisa. 2014. *Life Beside Itself: Imagining Care in the Canadian Arctic*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

The Canadian arctic has a ‘suicide epidemic’ among first-nations people, which continues despite the state efforts to care for life. Stevenson’s book forces us to consider the many ways ‘life’ is rendered by taking the reader on a journey through images and sounds that weave a compelling story of the proximity of life and death.

Myerhoff, Barbara G. 1980. *Number Our Days*. New York, N.Y.: Simon and Schuster.

When anthropologist Barbara Myerhoff is encouraged to study her own people, she immerses herself in a southern California community of Jewish elders as they laugh, fight, and always tell stories. She illuminates the importance of language, ritual, and immigrant experience in forming and keeping meaningful relationships in old age, how they keep the story of life moving.

Bornstein, Erica, and Peter Redfield. 2011. *Forces of Compassion: Humanitarianism Between Ethics and Politics*. Santa Fe: SAR Press.

The product of a School for Advanced Research Seminar, this coming together of some of the most prominent voices in the anthropology of humanitarianism is more cohesive and powerful than most edited volumes one comes across, and so can only faithfully be described as a lively conversation on the ethics and politics of human well-being. This book is global in scope but keeps a sharp focus on intimate encounters, case studies, and cultural meanings of compassion.

Mol, Annemarie. 2008. *The Logic of Care: Health and the Problem of Patient Choice*. 1 edition. London ; New York: Routledge.

Anne Marie Mol’s book recognizes the success of modern medical technologies and institutions for dramatically improving the health of populations, but at the same time cautions us against the assumption that more of the same is the best direction to proceed in from here. In contrast to what she calls the “logic of choice” that dominates medicine, Mol uses ethnographic insights from the everyday struggles of diabetes patients to argue for a “logic of care,” which attends to individual patients, and includes them in a collaborative process of “tinkering” and adaptation to contingencies.