



Fighting Scholars

Habitus and Ethnographies of Martial Arts and Combat Sports

Edited by Raúl Sánchez García and Dale C. Spencer

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‘Fighting Scholars’ offers the first book-length overview of the ethnographic study of martial arts and combat sports from the viewpoint of a ‘carnal sociology’.

“Fighting Scholars” is a groundbreaking contribution, combining empirically illuminating explorations of combats sports with methodologically innovative insights into embodiment and social research. With an acute sensitivity towards the social role of violence, gender relations and the cross-cultural transmission of leisure forms, this book underscores the transformative potential of both sports participation and the ethnographic experience.’ —Dominic Malcolm, Senior Lecturer in the Sociology of Sport, Loughborough University

“Fighting Scholars” presents a fresh, rich and inspiring look into the sociology and carnal ethnography of martial arts. Solidly founded on the deep academic knowledge and wide field experiences of thirteen contributors, it is a unique piece in the vast bibliography of the martial arts.’ —Carlos Gutiérrez-García, University of León, Spain, and Editor-in-Chief of the journal ‘Revista de Artes Marciales Asiáticas’

‘Fighting Scholars’ presents insightful ethnographic research on a range of different martial arts and combat sports. Taking the habitus as a central theme of analysis, the different contributions of this volume are aligned within the same project that began to crystallize in Loïc Wacquant’s ‘Body and Soul’: the construction of a ‘carnal sociology’ that constitutes an exploration of the social world ‘from’ the body.

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