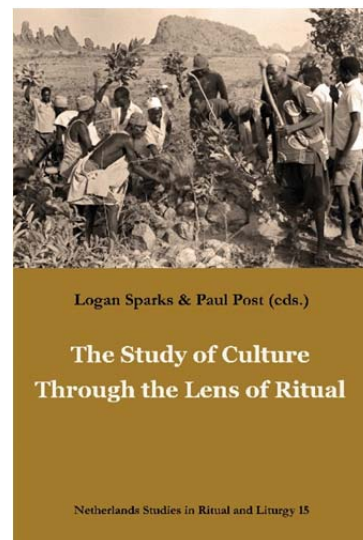


# The Study of Culture through the Lens of Ritual

Logan Sparks & Paul Post  
(eds.)

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This collection of articles has grown from the First International Istanbul Ritual Studies Symposium which was held at Süleyman Şah University in Istanbul on May 27-28, 2014. This conference was a cooperative initiative of the SSU Department of Sociology in Istanbul and the research group 'Ritual in Society' at the Tilburg School of Humanities. The symposium and this book challenged the Tilburg-Istanbul network to enter this Ritual Studies platform and present work where cultural and social phenomena and practices are approached through the lens, the entrance point of ritual. This emphasis can be translated into an approach to ritual as an analytical concept that brings in theoretical and methodological dimensions. This text both discusses the place of ritual in cultural analysis and includes a critical discussion around this same approach. The book has, in this way, a very open character. Various disciplines explore cultural practices through the lens of ritual and ritual is itself, in turn, conceived of in an open way. All articles have a contemporary character and draw from a variety of contexts, from the Middle East to Latin America, Europe, Africa and New Zealand. This book is dedicated to Walter van Beek who is retiring from the chair of anthropology of religion at the Tilburg School of Humanities in November 2015.

**Logan Sparks** is an ethnographer and ritual studies specialist at Süleyman Şah University in Istanbul, Turkey.

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