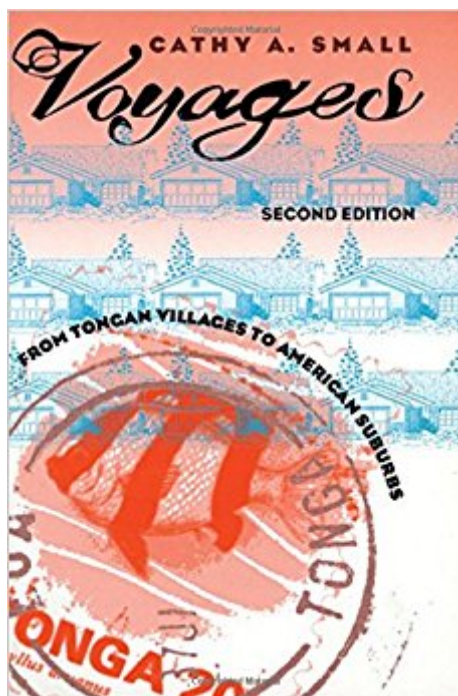


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Voyages: From Tongan Villages To American Suburbs



Synopsis

In *Voyages*, Cathy A. Small offers a view of the changes in migration, globalization, and ethnographic fieldwork over three decades. The second edition adds fresh descriptions and narratives in three new chapters based on two more visits to Tonga and California in 2010. The author (whose role after thirty years of fieldwork is both ethnographer and family member) reintroduces the reader to four sisters in the same family—two who migrated to the United States and two who remained in Tonga—and reveals what has unfolded in their lives in the fifteen years since the first edition was written. The second edition concludes with new reflections on how immigration and globalization have affected family, economy, tradition, political life, identity, and the practice of anthropology.

Book Information

Paperback: 312 pages

Publisher: Cornell University Press; 2 edition (November 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801477395

ISBN-13: 978-0801477393

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #151,826 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Oceania](#) #108 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Immigrants](#) #278 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Emigration & Immigration](#)

Customer Reviews

While a few Californians may be aware of the Tongan immigrant population in their midst, most Americans are unaware that the United States is a major terminus for the people of Tonga, an island nation in the South Pacific. Small (anthropology, Northern Arizona Univ.) examines Tongan migration to the United States in a "transnational" perspective, stressing that many of the new migrant populations seem successfully to manage dual lives, in both the old country and the new. To that end, she describes life in contemporary Tongan communities and in U.S. settings. Although this does not add much that is new to the anthropological literature, the chapter on "The Meanings of Tongan Migration" will show many nonspecialists why immigrants are willing to live in "hovels" in

the United States and work two or more jobs: "these same people have fine houses and are important figures in the village when they go home for two or three months each year." For academic and larger public libraries. © Glenn Petersen, Baruch Coll., CUNY Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Most Americans are unaware that the United States is a major terminus for the people of Tonga, an island nation in the South Pacific. Small examines Tongan migration to the United States in a transnational perspective, stressing that many of the new migrant populations seem to successfully manage dual lives, in both the old country and the new. To that end, she describes life in contemporary Tongan communities and in U.S. settings." — Library Journal (reviewing the first edition) "The central idea of *Voyages* — that Tonga and all Tongans exist at this moment in time in a transnational space — comes through vividly and powerfully, and the durability of this image is testimony to the success of Small's experiment in ethnographic writing." — The Contemporary Pacific (reviewing the first edition) "Voyages is a valuable contribution to the literature on immigration and on Asian Americans. Its clear, informal prose style also makes it an ideal book for undergraduate or graduate classes in anthropology, sociology, cultural geography, or Asian American studies." — International Migration Review (reviewing the first edition) "Voyages: From Tongan Villages to American Suburbs provide[s] valuable ways of thinking about migration, the nature of difference and flexible and sometimes transient identities. . . . Small's book is full of experiential moments and turning points — expected and unexpected — in the lives of potential and actual migrants." — John Connell, *Journal of Pacific History* (2013)

Took a class in college and we learned about Tonga. I really hope I can go visit someday. Was so interesting to learn about this culture. The book gave me so much insight into a culture I would not have experienced without reading this book. We learned about the pig trading and how the villages work. The professor I had made the book really fun. We actually played a game where we pretended we were Tongan and he gave us pigs to trade. This book was very helpful in learning how the Tongans live and I found it very interesting. I really do hope I get to visit someday.

This book is actually way more interesting than you would think it would be. The writing style is casual enough that it doesn't seem overly formal, and it honors the characters and their stories by bringing them to life for the reader in vivid detail. It grips you and keeps you emotionally invested

and interested - you come to recognize the characters and feel like you know them, and it's honestly like watching a really great TV show -but in book form.

Took a while to get here, but everything is good!

Got it for a class.

Great discount on price compared to college book store. Shipped quickly and in great condition; just the book she needed for her class. She has mentioned that she found the book enlightening and wanted me to read it.

THANKS!

While Dr. Small has written a book specifically about Tonga and of her "full circle" experience of living in Tonga, of returning to the US and now having her Tongan family living in the US, it is an excellent work on immigration in general. I was Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador (1988-1990) and found this book very helpful in understanding the "remittance" economy that I experienced in the village of Guamote. This scholarly work is very readable and it explains in depth a universal desire to have at least one family member migrate away from a poor country to a richer country in order to provide remittance to help the family members remaining have a much better life. This is a double edged sword that can cut deeply in to the hopes and dreams of maintaining native country culture. This book will make you think about the why of immigration. I recommend this book highly.

I highly recommend *Voyages* to anyone who cares about people and families. It's amazing how a non-fiction book about Tongans living here in the US or in their own country can be so interesting to read. But it is! That's because the author helps us see these recent immigrants to the US as people-in fact, as people very much like those of us whose families came here a longer time ago. It even helped me to better understand what motivated my own family to come here a century ago. The book is not technical at all. It is written in style and language that is accessible to everyone. Migrants or immigrants seem to be on everybody's mind these days. Mostly we are led to think of them as a group of "others" who we need to regulate and be suspicious of. This book is important because Small draws us away from this kind of distancing and helps us to understand and be sensitive to the individuals. One can imagine relating to these people-perhaps because Small does

and we can relate to her. Since reading it, I find myself seeing and hearing the flow of foreign languages in airports and restaurants, etc. I find myself thinking that these people whom I now am noticing are just like the ones I met in Small's book. That we share a common humanity is a message that we can't hear too often. And Small gives it to us so gently and in such an absorbing way that I think *Voyages* is a book that should be read very widely.

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