

Following Tradition

Folklore in the
Discourse of
American
Culture

Simon J. Bronner



Following Tradition Folklore In The Discourse Of American Culture

Linda Watts



Following Tradition Folklore In The Discourse Of American Culture:

Following Tradition Simon Bronner, 1998-04-01 Following Tradition is an expansive examination of the history of tradition one of the most common as well as most contested terms in English language usage in Americans thinking and discourse about culture Tradition in use becomes problematic because of its multiple meanings and its conceptual softness As a term and a concept it has been important in the development of all scholarly fields that study American culture Folklore history American studies anthropology cultural studies and others assign different value and meaning to tradition It is a frequent point of reference in popular discourse concerning everything from politics to lifestyles to sports and entertainment Politicians and social advocates appeal to it as prima facie evidence of the worth of their causes Entertainment and other media mass produce it or at least a facsimile of it In a society that frequently seeks to reinvent itself tradition as a cultural anchor to be revered or rejected is an essential if elusive concept Simon Bronner's wide net captures the historical rhetorical philosophical and psychological dimensions of tradition As he notes he has written a book about an American tradition arguing about it His elucidation of those arguments makes fascinating and thoughtful reading An essential text for folklorists Following Tradition will be a valuable reference as well for historians and anthropologists students of American studies popular culture and cultural studies and anyone interested in the continuing place of tradition in American culture

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Explaining Traditions Simon J. Bronner, 2011-08-26 Why do humans hold onto traditions Many pundits predicted that modernization and the rise of a mass culture would displace traditions especially in America but cultural practices still bear out the importance of rituals and customs in the development of identity heritage and community In Explaining Traditions

Folk Behavior in Modern Culture Simon J Bronner discusses the underlying reasons for the continuing significance of traditions delving into their social and psychological roles in everyday life from old time crafts to folk creativity on the Internet Challenging prevailing notions of tradition as a relic of the past Explaining Traditions provides deep insight into the nuances and purposes of living traditions in relation to modernity Bronner s work forces readers to examine their own traditions and imparts a better understanding of raging controversies over the sustainability of traditions in the modern world *The ^AOxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies* Simon J. Bronner,2019-08-06 The Oxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies surveys the materials approaches concepts and applications of the field to provide a sweeping guide to American folklore and folklife culture history and society Forty three comprehensive and diverse chapters explore the extraordinary richness of the American social and cultural fabric offering a valuable resource not only for scholars and students of American studies but also for the global study of tradition folk arts and cultural practice

Tradition in the Twenty-First Century Trevor J. Blank,Robert Glenn Howard,2013-05-15 In Tradition in the Twenty First Century eight diverse contributors explore the role of tradition in contemporary folkloristics For more than a century folklorists have been interested in locating sources of tradition and accounting for the conceptual boundaries of tradition but in the modern era expanded means of communication research and travel along with globalized cultural and economic interdependence have complicated these pursuits Tradition is thoroughly embedded in both modern life and at the center of folklore studies and a modern understanding of tradition cannot be fully realized without a thoughtful consideration of the past s role in shaping the present Emphasizing how tradition adapts survives thrives and either mutates or remains stable in today s modern world the contributors pay specific attention to how traditions now resist or expedite dissemination and adoption by individuals and communities This complex and intimate portrayal of tradition in the twenty first century offers a comprehensive overview of the folkloristic and popular conceptualizations of tradition from the past to present and presents a thoughtful assessment and projection of how tradition will fare in years to come The book will be useful to advanced undergraduate or graduate courses in folklore and will contribute significantly to the scholarly literature on tradition within the folklore discipline Additional Contributors Simon Bronner Stephen Olbrys Gencarella Merrill Kaplan Lynne S McNeill Elliott Oring Casey R Schmitt and Tok Thompson , *Folk Literati, Contested Tradition, and Heritage in Contemporary China* Ziyang You,2020-02-11 In this important ethnography Ziyang You explores the role of the folk literati in negotiating defining and maintaining local cultural heritage Expanding on the idea of the elite literati a widely studied pre modern Chinese social group influential in cultural production the folk literati are defined as those who are skilled in classical Chinese knowledgeable about local traditions and capable of representing them in writing The folk literati work to maintain cultural continuity a concept that is expressed locally through the vernacular phrase incense is kept burning You s research focuses on a few small villages in Hongtong County Shanxi Province in contemporary China Through a careful synthesis of

oral interviews participant observation and textual analysis You presents the important role the folk literati play in reproducing local traditions and continuing stigmatized beliefs in a community context She demonstrates how eight folk literati have reconstructed shifted and negotiated local worship traditions around the ancient sage Kings Yao and Shun as well as Ehuang and N ying Yao s two daughters and Shun s two wives You highlights how these individuals conflictive relationships have shaped and reflected different local beliefs myths legends and history in the course of tradition preservation She concludes her study by placing these local traditions in the broader context of Chinese cultural policy and UNESCO s Intangible Cultural Heritage program documenting how national and international discourses impact actual traditions and the conversations about them on the ground

Fairy Tales in Contemporary American Culture Kate Christine Moore Koppy, 2021-02-22 In the twenty first century American culture is experiencing a profound shift toward pluralism and secularization In *Fairy Tales in Contemporary American Culture How We Hate to Love Them* Kate Koppy argues that the increasing popularity and presence of fairy tales within American culture is both indicative of and contributing to this shift By analyzing contemporary fairy tale texts as both new versions in a particular tale type and as wholly new fairy tale pastiches Koppy shows that fairy tales have become a key part of American secular scripture a corpus of shared stories that work to maintain a sense of community among diverse audiences in the United States as much as biblical scripture and associated texts used to

Pennsylvania Germans Simon J. Bronner, Joshua R. Brown, 2017-02-15 This comprehensive encyclopedia the first of its kind maps out three hundred years of German history and culture in Pennsylvania and beyond Winner of the CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of the Choice ACRL Destined to become the standard reference on Pennsylvania Germans also known as the Pennsylvania Dutch this book is the first survey of this extensive American group in nearly seventy five years Nineteen broad interpretive essays written by a distinguished group of historians anthropologists sociologists linguists and folklorists tell the rich and nuanced story of Pennsylvania German history and culture United by a distinct and distinctly American language the Pennsylvania Germans have been slower to assimilate than other ethnic groups This sweeping volume reveals though that the group is much less homogenous and isolated than was previously thought From architecture media and farming techniques to food folklore and medicine the Pennsylvania Germans and their descendants display a wide range of cultural variation In *Pennsylvania Germans* editors Simon J Bronner and Joshua R Brown broaden the geographical and social coverage of the group touching both on Pennsylvanian communities and the Pennsylvania German diaspora including settlements in Canada and Mexico They also expand historical coverage of the Pennsylvania Germans to the twentieth and twenty first centuries Beautifully illustrated this volume while paying tribute to the historical and cultural legacy of the Pennsylvania Germans is the most comprehensive book on the subject to date Contributors R Troy Boyer Simon J Bronner Joshua R Brown Edsel Burdge Jr William W Donner John B Frantz Mark H berlein Karen M Johnson Weiner Donald B Kraybill David W Kriebel Gabrielle Lanier Mark L Louden Yvonne J Milspaw Lisa Minardi

Steven M Nolt Candace Perry Sheila Rohrer and Diane Wenger **Lafcadio Hearn's America** Simon J. Bronner, 2021-12-14

The American essays of renowned writer Lafcadio Hearn 1850 1904 artistically chronicle the robust urban life of Cincinnati and New Orleans Hearn is one of the few chroniclers of urban American life in the nineteenth century and much of this material has not been widely available since the 1950s Lafcadio Hearn's America collects Hearn's stories of vagabonds river people mystics criminals and some of the earliest accounts available of black and ethnic urban folklife in America He was a frequently consulted expert on America during his years in Japan and these editorials reflect on the problems and possibilities of American life as the country entered its greatest century Hearn's work which reflects an America that is less melting pot than a varied spicy and often exotic gumbo provide essential background for the study of America's first steps away from its agrarian beginnings *Advancing Folkloristics* Jesse A. Fivecoate, Kristina Downs, Meredith A. E.

McGriff, 2021-08-03 An unprecedented number of folklorists are addressing issues of class race gender and sexuality in academic and public spaces in the US raising the question How can folklorists contribute to these contemporary political affairs Since the nature of folkloristics transcends binaries can it help others develop critical personal narratives *Advancing Folkloristics* covers topics such as queer feminist and postcolonial scholarship in folkloristics Contributors investigate how to apply folkloristic approaches in nonfolklore classrooms how to maintain a folklorist identity without a folklorist job title and how to use folkloristic knowledge to interact with others outside of the discipline The chapters which range from theoretical reorientations to personal experiences of folklore work all demonstrate the kinds of work folklorists are well suited to and promote the areas in which folkloristics is poised to expand and excel *Advancing Folkloristics* presents a clear picture of folklore studies today and articulates how it must adapt in the future *Guns and Contemporary Society* Glenn H.

Utter, 2015-12-01 This three volume set examines various approaches to firearms including constitutional and legal issues public health and criminal justice concerns and perspectives on personal safety and self defense Recent mass shootings have led to renewed calls for additional legislation at the state and federal levels to address gun access and control In this hard hitting compilation experts delve into various aspects of firearms in America from gun control and gun rights to militia movements to school related shootings and to the recent trends in gun ownership by women Authors from varied backgrounds and viewpoints share their perspectives on the pros and cons of firearm ownership as all of the following a constitutional right a key instrument of self defense a guarantee of political freedoms and as a major factor in crime and personal injury The reference is divided into three volumes The first volume covers firearm history legislation and policy the second volume explores public opinion gun ownership trends international laws and self defense and the third considers popular debates about firearm policy including concealed carry of firearms terrorism and the ownership of firearms background checks for purchasing guns and stand your ground laws The work concludes with an informed debate on gun policy between Richard Feldman president of the Independent Firearm Owners and Paul Helmke former president of the

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence **Encyclopedia of American Folklore** Linda Watts, 2020-07-01 Folklore has been described as the unwritten literature of a culture its songs stories sayings games rituals beliefs and ways of life Encyclopedia of American Folklore helps readers explore topics terms themes figures and issues related to this popular subject This comprehensive reference guide addresses the needs of multiple audiences including high school college and public libraries archive and museum collections storytellers and independent researchers Its content and organization correspond to the ways educators integrate folklore within literacy and wider learning objectives for language arts and cultural studies at the secondary level This well rounded resource connects United States folk forms with their cultural origin historical context and social function Appendixes include a bibliography a category index and a discussion of starting points for researching American folklore References and bibliographic material throughout the text highlight recently published and commonly available materials for further study Coverage includes Folk heroes and legendary figures including Paul Bunyan and Yankee Doodle Fables fairy tales and myths often featured in American folklore including Little Red Riding Hood and The Princess and the Pea American authors who have added to or modified folklore traditions including Washington Irving Historical events that gave rise to folklore including the civil rights movement and the Revolutionary War Terms in folklore studies such as fieldwork and the folklife movement Holidays and observances such as Christmas and Kwanzaa Topics related to folklore in everyday life such as sports folklore and courtship dating folklore Folklore related to cultural groups such as Appalachian folklore and African American folklore and more **Vernacular Architecture in the 21st Century** Lindsay Asquith, Marcel Vellinga, 2006-03-10 The issues surrounding the function and meaning of vernacular architecture in the twenty first century are complex and extensive Taking a distinctively rigorous theoretical approach this book considers these issues from a number of perspectives broadening current debate to a wider multidisciplinary audience These collected essays from the leading experts in the field focus on theory education and practice in this essential sector of architecture and help to formulate solutions to the environmental disaster management and housing challenges facing the global community today *Signifying Serpents and Mardi Gras Runners* R. Celeste Ray, Luke E. Lassiter, 2003 These case studies explore how competing interests among the keepers of a community s heritage shape how that community both regards itself and reveals itself to others As editors Celeste Ray and Luke Eric Lassiter note in their introduction such stakeholders are no longer just of the community itself but are now often outsiders tourists the mass media and even anthropologists and folklorists The setting of each study is a different marginalized community in the South Arranged around three themes that have often surfaced in debates about public folklore and anthropology over the last two decades the studies consider issues of representation identity and practice One study of representation discusses how Appalachian Pentecostal serpent handlers try to reconcile their exotic popular image with their personal religious beliefs A case study on identity tells why a segment of the Cajun population has appropriated the term coonass once widely considered derogatory Essays on practice look at an

Appalachian Virginia coal town and Snee Farm a National Heritage Site in lowland South Carolina Both pieces reveal how dynamic and contradictory views of community life can be silenced in favor of producing a more easily consumable vision of a past Signifying Serpents and Mardi Gras Runners offers challenging new insights into some of the roles that the media tourism and charismatic community members can play when a community compromises its heritage or even denies it

Folk Women and Indirection in Morrison, N Dhuibhne, Hurston, and Lavin Jacqueline Fulmer,2017-11-30

Focusing on the lineage of pivotal African American and Irish women writers the author argues that these authors often employ strategies of indirection via folkloric expression when exploring unpopular topics This strategy holds the attention of readers who would otherwise reject the subject matter The author traces the line of descent from Mary Lavin to N Dhuibhne and from Zora Neale Hurston to Toni Morrison showing how obstacles to free expression though varying from those Lavin and Hurston faced are still encountered by Morrison and N Dhuibhne The basis for comparing these authors lies in the strategies of indirection they use as influenced by folklore The folkloric characters these authors depict wild denizens of the Otherworld and wise women of various traditions help their creators insert controversy into fiction in ways that charm rather than alienate readers Forms of rhetorical indirection that appear in the context of folklore such as signifying practices masking sly civility and the grotesque or bizarre come out of the mouths and actions of these writers magical and magisterial characters Old traditions can offer new ways of discussing issues such as sexual expression religious beliefs or issues of reproduction As differences between times and cultures affect what can and cannot be said folkloric indirection may open up a vista to discourses of which we as readers may not even be aware Finally the folk women of Morrison N Dhuibhne Hurston and Lavin open up new points of entry to the discussion of fiction rhetoric censorship and folklore

Encyclopedia of

American Folklife Simon J Bronner,2015-03-04 American folklife is steeped in world cultures or invented as new culture always evolving yet often practiced as it was created many years or even centuries ago This fascinating encyclopedia explores the rich and varied cultural traditions of folklife in America from barn raisings to the Internet tattoos and Zydeco through expressions that include ritual custom crafts architecture food clothing and art Featuring more than 350 A Z entries Encyclopedia of American Folklife is wide ranging and inclusive Entries cover major cities and urban centers new and established immigrant groups as well as native Americans American territories such as Guam and Samoa major issues such as education and intellectual property and expressions of material culture such as homes dress food and crafts This encyclopedia covers notable folklife areas as well as general regional categories It addresses religious groups reflecting diversity within groups such as the Amish and the Jews age groups both old age and youth gangs and contemporary folk groups skateboarders and psychobillies placing all of them in the vivid tapestry of folklife in America In addition this resource offers useful insights on folklife concepts through entries such as community and group and tradition and culture The set also features complete indexes in each volume as well as a bibliography for further research

Going to the People Jeffrey

Veidlinger, 2016-02-22 A remarkable achievement demonstrating the vitality of Jewish folklore and ethnographic studies a hundred years after An sky s pioneering expedition Folklore Taking S An sky s expeditions to the Pale of Jewish Settlement as its point of departure the volume explores the dynamic and many sided nature of ethnographic knowledge and the long and complex history of the production and consumption of Jewish folk traditions These essays by historians anthropologists musicologists and folklorists showcase some of the finest research in the field They reveal how the collection analysis and preservation of ethnography intersect with questions about the construction and delineation of community the preservation of Jewishness the meaning of belief the significance of retrieving cultural heritage the politics of accessing and memorializing lost cultures and the problem of narration among other topics Going to the People proves itself a useful addition to scholarship on Jewish folklore and ethnography by introducing major issues in these fields as well as the historical figures and contemporary scholars who have shaped and continue to shape their development Western Folklore This book s essays portray the various threads and trends in Jewish ethnography in Poland and Soviet Russia the US the new Jewish State of Israel and eventually in postcommunist societies The endurance and evolution of Jewish folk culture is analyzed using techniques applicable to all groups and communities Recommended Choice I read through this collection with pleasure and fascination These are valuable voices that should be heard Gabriella Safran Stanford University This volume brings together some of the most innovative research in the field Eugene Avrutin author of Photographing the Jewish Nation Pictures from S An sky s Ethnographic Expeditions *Revisioning Ritual* Simon J. Bronner, 2011-09-30 A fascinating analysis of how the study of ritual is critical to illuminating what is Jewish about Jewishness *Native Speakers* María Eugenia Cotera, 2008-12-01 In the early twentieth century three women of color helped shape a new world of ethnographic discovery Ella Cara Deloria a Sioux woman from South Dakota Zora Neale Hurston an African American woman from Florida and Jovita Gonz lez a Mexican American woman from the Texas borderlands achieved renown in the fields of folklore studies anthropology and ethno linguistics during the 1920s and 1930s While all three collaborated with leading male intellectuals in these disciplines to produce innovative ethnographic accounts of their own communities they also turned away from ethnographic meaning making at key points in their careers and explored the realm of storytelling through vivid mixed genre novels centred on the lives of women In this book Cotera offers an intellectual history situated in the borderlands between conventional accounts of anthropology women s history and African American Mexican American and Native American intellectual genealogies At its core is also a meditation on what it means to draw three women from disparate though nevertheless interconnected histories of marginalization into conversation with one another Can such a conversation reveal a shared history that has been erased due to institutional racism sexism and simple neglect Is there a mode of comparative reading that can explore their points of connection even as it remains attentive to their differences These are the questions at the core of this book which offers not only a corrective history centred on the lives of women of colour intellectuals but also a

methodology for comparative analysis shaped by their visions of the world

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