

Women as Unseen Characters

Male Ritual in Papua New Guinea

Edited by Pascale Bonnemère

PENN

University of Pennsylvania Press

Philadelphia

Contents

Note for Readers vii

Introduction 1

The Presence of Women in New Guinea Secret Male Rituals: From Ritual
Space to Ritual Process

1. Sambia Women's Positionality and Men's Rituals 16
 Gilbert Herdt

2. Embodiments of Detachment: Engendering Agency in the Highlands of
 Papua New Guinea 34
 Sandra C. Bamford

3. When Women Enter the Picture: Looking at Anga Initiations from the
 Mothers' Angle 57
 Pascale Bonnemère

4. *Ujawe*: The Ritual Transformation of Sons and Mothers 75
 Marta A. Rohatynskyj

5. The Bachelors and Their Spirit Wife: Interpreting the *Omatisia* Ritual of
 Porgera and Paiela 98
 Aletta Biersack

6. Cults, Closures, Collaborations 120
 Andrew Strathern and Pamela J. Stewart

7. The Variability of Women's "Involvement" in Anga
 Male Initiations 139
 Pierre Lemonnier

8. Of Human and Spirit Women: From Mother to Seductress to Second Wife	154	
Polly Wiessner		
9. Relating to Women: Female Presence in Melanesian “Male Cults”		179
Bruce M. Knauft		
Notes	201	
Bibliography	221	
List of Contributors	235	
Index	239	
Acknowledgments	253	