

Electrifying Anthropology

Exploring Electrical Practices and Infrastructures

Edited by

Simone Abram, Brit Ross Winthereik and Thomas Yarrow

With illustrations by Anjan Sarkar

FID SOZIAL UND
KULTURANTHROPOLOGIE
in Zusammenarbeit mit der DFG

BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC
LONDON • NEW YORK • OXFORD • NEW DELHI • SYDNEY

Contents

List of figures	vi
Notes on contributors	vii
Acknowledgements	x
1 Current thinking – an introduction <i>Simone Abram, Brit Ross Winthereik and Thomas Yarrow</i>	3
2 Electricity is not a noun <i>Gretchen Bakke</i>	25
3 Widened reason and deepened optimism: Electricity and morality in Durkheim's anthropology and our own <i>Leo Coleman</i>	43
4 No current: Electricity and disconnection in rural India <i>Jamie Cross</i>	65
5 What the e-bike tells us about the anthropology of energy <i>Nathalie Ortar</i>	83
6 At the edge of the network of power in Japan, c. 1910s–1960s <i>Hiroki Shin</i>	101
7 Can the Mekong speak? On hydropower, models and 'thing-power' <i>Casper Bruun Jensen</i>	121
8 Electrification and the everyday spaces of state power in postcolonial Mozambique <i>Joshua Kirshner and Marcus Power</i>	139
9 Big grid: The computing beast that preceded big data <i>Canay Özden-Schilling</i>	161
10 Touring the nuclear sublime: Power-plant tours as tools of government <i>Tristan Loloum</i>	181
11 Afterword: Electricity as inspiration – towards indeterminate interventions <i>Sarah Pink</i>	201
Index	209