



Faith in the Time of AIDS: Religion, Biopolitics and Modernity in South Africa (Non-Governmental Public Action)

Marian Burchardt

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For a long time, Christians have remained at the margins of social projects around development, humanitarianism and HIV/AIDS in Africa. Drawing on ethnographic explorations in South Africa, this book tells the story of how Christian practices and narratives have become central for civil society responses to the epidemic. Marian Burchardt shows how Christians have employed globally circulating templates around 'behavioural change' in fields such as sexuality and biomedicine, but also how these templates are subverted when they are adapted to people's needs. Through activism and spiritual notions of life, Christians have not only affected the way people think about relationships and health; by envisioning and promoting activist notions of personhood, unwittingly Christians have also pushed the frontiers of modernity. Taking his inspirations from Foucault and the sociology of knowledge, the author argues that Christian responses to AIDS reveal the dialectics of discipline and liberation inherent in the modern Christian project.



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