

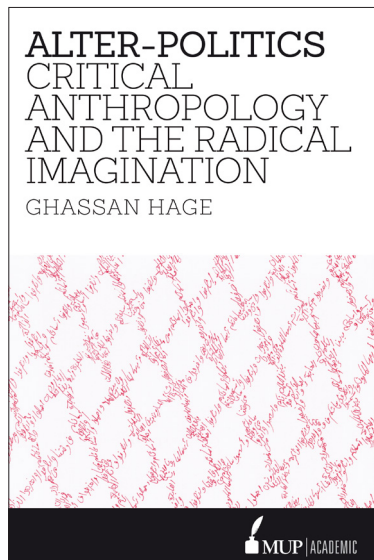
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ALTER-POLITICS

Critical Anthropology and the Radical Imagination

by Ghassan Hage

'Ghassan Hage's provocative new book urges us to rethink positions within disciplinary debates and compels us to consider, with renewed seriousness, the utopian maxim, "another world is possible".'—ANGELA DAVIS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

'With passion, clarity and, above all, utter relevance, Ghassan Hage offers here an illustration of an anthropology that transforms radical cultural alterity into a source of political insight and an opening towards possible futures.'—EDUARDO VIVEIROS DE CASTRO, UNIVERSITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO

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Alter-Politics: Critical Anthropology and the Radical Imagination is a contribution to the long history of critical writing against an increasingly destructive global order marked by excessive exploitation and degradation of the environment, and ridden with unacceptable, but also, importantly, avoidable, forms of inequality and injustice. It is concerned with the way anthropological critical writing aims to weave oppositional concerns (anti-politics) with a search for alternatives (alter-politics): alternative economies, alternative modes of inhabiting and relating to the earth, alternative modes of thinking and experiencing otherness. If the book privileges alter-politics over oppositional politics, it is not because the 'alter' moment is more important than the 'anti', it is because a concern for alter-politics has been less explored in public debate.

The question of 'political passion' is crucial in this conception of the alter-political. The book argues that because radical political passion has been mostly directed towards anti-politics, it has come to dominate over alter-politics. This does not simply mean that political passion needs to be equally directed towards alter-politics: it also means that this energy needs to be a radically different kind of political expression. In *Alter-Politics*, Ghassan Hage strives to create a space for this 'alter-political passion'.

Ghassan Hage is professor of anthropology and social theory at the University of Melbourne. He works in the areas of comparative nationalism, racism and multiculturalism and is the author of *White Nation: Fantasies of White Supremacy in a Multicultural Society* (Routledge 2000). He also works in social theory with a particular interest in the work of Pierre Bourdieu.

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