

New Titles

Source: BioScience, 63(3) : 231-232

Published By: American Institute of Biological Sciences

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2013.63.3.15>

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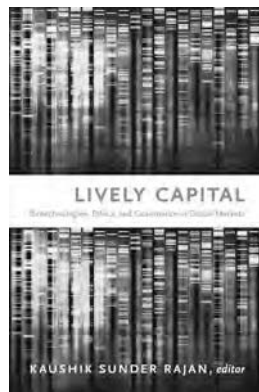
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research, which has made the actual scientific discovery process more responsive to the pull and influence of market forces. However, differences in approach among these institutions reveal a certain level of plasticity in how emerging biotechnologies are integrated into systems that generate social value, such as intellectual property regimes.

The book raises questions about the nature of these processes and about the effects that scientific and market systems have on each other. On one level, *Lively Capital* focuses on the developing global response to the emergence of biotechnologies—a discussion involving rational questions about monetary value and risk, as well as more emotionally charged questions about science and technology, which “impinge on experiences of embodiment, kinship, identity, disability, citizenship, accumulation, or dispossession” (p. 16). On another level, the book reflects on the philosophical questions of how to make sense of this science–market relationship. In this respect, the work focuses on discovering trends and on how scholars have attempted to study the ways in which this relationship is negotiated and experienced.

Editor Kaushik Sunder Rajan argues that the “theoretical question at the heart of this volume is not to come up with the *theory* of life or capital or governance or globalization or markets or neoliberalism, but it is rather to come up with *forms of inquiry* that are adequate to studying a contemporary conjuncture of the life sciences and capital” (p. 23). He also expresses a desire to facilitate continued exchanges among these forms of inquiry—a collaboration that is often thwarted by disciplinary divides. To Rajan’s credit, a convincing argument is made that the issues surrounding the science–market relationship can be satisfactorily addressed by interdisciplinary research, which reaches beyond the standard epistemological and methodological boundaries of established forms of inquiry.

To this end, the book showcases diverse approaches from the social sciences and humanities and includes topics such as environmental politics, the ethics of biomedical technologies, intellectual property law, and experimental epistemology of life science research. The methodological approach adopted by each contributor is qualitative in nature and relies heavily on detailed descriptions of case studies as diverse as the historical commodification of dogs and the promise of new biomedical interventions for autism. The terminology, tone, and style of each essay is quite distinct. As a result, the book does not lend itself well to a cover-to-cover reading. However, each piece of research provides a stimulating account of intellectual inquiry.



Viewed as a whole, the volume has been thoughtfully edited to balance the need for conceptual structure with a sensitivity to the diverse approaches of the contributing authors. Rajan’s contributions give the reader a solid conceptual grounding—no mean feat, considering the compounding effects of epistemological and methodological pluralism. The editor’s commentary enables the contributors, many of whom are world renowned in their fields, to engage in analysis in a way that is not overly formulaic or confined to surface-level examination.

The editorial presentation of *Lively Capital* will not appeal to those who seek clear-cut solutions to the philosophical and political problems raised by the commercialization of the life sciences. Equally obtuse are the conclusions about the nature and trajectories of the

relationship between the practice of life science research and market-driven values. Despite this, Rajan nevertheless manages to provide a concise analysis of the book’s contributions in its closing section. He breaks them down into three interrelated forms of inquiry: (1) Empirical: In what ways are these new conjunctures of science and capital forcing us to recalibrate our “vocabulary of social theory that we have inherited”? (2) Methodological: How do we make sense of what we see and convey our understanding to others? And (3) political: What larger ramifications will “these empirical and conceptual interventions” have? (pp. 437–438). This work, then, is as much about the *study* of the commodification of biotechnology as it is about the actual commodification of biotechnology.

In many ways, *Lively Capital* reflects both the challenges and the benefits of adopting an interdisciplinary approach to researching an issue. As a result, the book provides a thought-provoking read for those with an interest in the processes of commodification and in the politics of emerging bioeconomies.

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NEW TITLES

Bankrupting Nature: Denying Our Planetary Boundaries. Anders Wijkman and Johan Rockström. Taylor and Francis (Routledge), 2012. 224 pp., illus. \$44.95 (ISBN 9780415539692 cloth).

Chasing Doctor Dolittle: Learning the Language of Animals. Con Slobodkinoff. Macmillan (St. Martin’s),

doi:10.1525/bio.2013.63.3.14

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2012. 320 pp., illus. \$25.99 (ISBN 9780312611798 cloth).

Common Mosses of the Northeast and Appalachians. Karl B. McKnight, Joseph R. Rohrer, Kirsten McKnight Ward, and Warren J. Perdrizet. Princeton University Press, 2013. 392 pp., illus. \$24.95 (ISBN 9780691156965 paper).

Crop Genetic Resources as a Global Commons: Challenges in International Law and Governance. Michael Halewood, Isabel Lopez Noriega, and Selim Louafi, eds. Taylor and Francis (Routledge), 2012. 424 pp., illus. \$64.95 (ISBN 9781844078936 paper).

Ecological Restoration. Susan M. Galatowitsch. Sinauer, 2012. 630 pp., illus. \$89.95 (ISBN 9780878936076 cloth).

Ecology, Conservation, and Restoration of Tidal Marshes: The San Francisco Estuary. Arnas Palaima, ed. University of California Press, 2012. 288 pp., illus. \$75.00 (ISBN 9780520274297 cloth).

Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests. Christopher Johnson and David Govatski. Island Press, 2013. 326 pp., illus. \$35.00 (ISBN 9781610910101 paper).

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Improving Crop Productivity in Sustainable Agriculture. Narendra Tuteja, Sarvajeet Singh Gill, and Renu Tuteja, eds. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. 536 pp., illus. \$199.95 (ISBN 9783527332427 cloth).

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doi:10.1525/bio.2013.63.3.15

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