

The Phantom Gringo Boat:

Shamanic Discourse and Development in Panama

By Stephanie C. Kane

As in the myth of a phantom gringo boat receding into the mist, elusive promises of participatory democracy and a semi-autonomous forest reserve have spurred the Emberá Indians of Panama to leave their dispersed settlements in the Darién forests and become more involved with the outside world.

In this first full-length ethnography of the Emberá of Darién (also known, with the Wounaan, as the Chocó), Stephanie C. Kane investigates their use of myth and magic to interpret the changes that occurred in the mid-1980s after Manuel Noriega assumed command of the Panama Defense Forces. She reveals how magical discourse, founded on the ancient global practice of shamanism, is the language used to cross the gap between the known and the unknown.

Arguing that anthropology is both empirical and imaginative, Kane modifies the ethnographic gaze to include Indian views of the anthropologist and, more generally, Euro-Americans. Kane also presents analyses of indigenous women's land rights and the politics of rainforest development.

The Author

Stephanie C. Kane, a native New Yorker, is currently Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Gender Studies at Indiana University in Bloomington. She has a Ph.D. in social and cultural anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and is the author of *AIDS Alibis* (1998) and co-editor of *Crime's Power* (2003).

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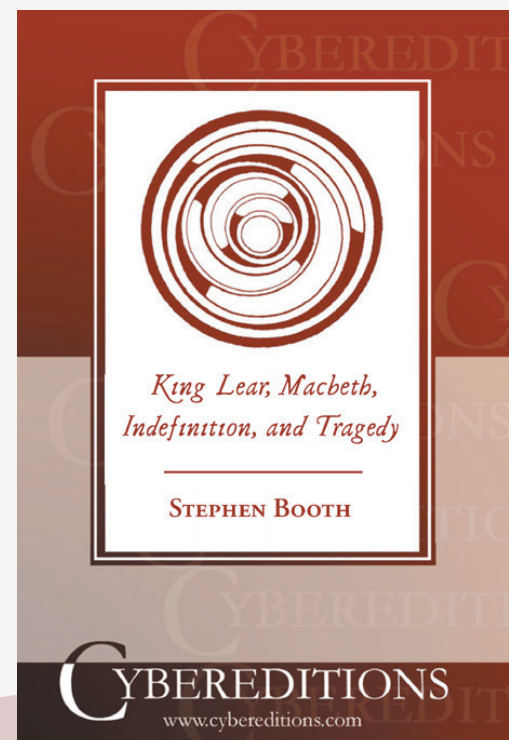
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