



The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies)

From William Sax

Download now

Read Online 

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax

How do rituals work? Although this is one of the first questions that people everywhere ask about rituals, little has been written explicitly on the topic. In *The Problem of Ritual Efficacy*, nine scholars address this issue, ranging across the fields of history, anthropology, medicine, and biblical studies.

For "modern" people, the very notion of ritual efficacy is suspicious because rituals are widely thought of as merely symbolic or expressive, so that - by definition - they cannot be efficacious. Nevertheless people in many cultures assume that rituals do indeed "work," and when we take a closer look at who makes claims for ritual efficacy (and who disputes such claims), we learn a great deal about the social and historical contexts of such debates. Moving from the pre-modern era-in which the notion of ritual efficacy was not particularly controversial-into the skeptical present, the authors address a set of debates between positivists, natural scientists, and religious skeptics on the one side, and interpretive social scientists, phenomenologists, and religious believers on the other. Some contributors advance a particular theory of ritual efficacy while others ask whether the question makes any sense at all.

This path-breaking interdisciplinary collection will be of interest to readers in anthropology, history, religious studies, humanities and the social sciences broadly defined, and makes an important contribution to the larger conversation about what ritual does and why it matters to think about such things.

 [Download The Problem of Ritual Efficacy \(Oxford Ritual Stud ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Problem of Ritual Efficacy \(Oxford Ritual St ...pdf](#)

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies)

From William Sax

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax

How do rituals work? Although this is one of the first questions that people everywhere ask about rituals, little has been written explicitly on the topic. In *The Problem of Ritual Efficacy*, nine scholars address this issue, ranging across the fields of history, anthropology, medicine, and biblical studies.

For "modern" people, the very notion of ritual efficacy is suspicious because rituals are widely thought of as merely symbolic or expressive, so that - by definition - they cannot be efficacious. Nevertheless people in many cultures assume that rituals do indeed "work," and when we take a closer look at who makes claims for ritual efficacy (and who disputes such claims), we learn a great deal about the social and historical contexts of such debates. Moving from the pre-modern era-in which the notion of ritual efficacy was not particularly controversial-into the skeptical present, the authors address a set of debates between positivists, natural scientists, and religious skeptics on the one side, and interpretive social scientists, phenomenologists, and religious believers on the other. Some contributors advance a particular theory of ritual efficacy while others ask whether the question makes any sense at all.

This path-breaking interdisciplinary collection will be of interest to readers in anthropology, history, religious studies, humanities and the social sciences broadly defined, and makes an important contribution to the larger conversation about what ritual does and why it matters to think about such things.

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax Bibliography

- Rank: #482166 in Books
- Brand: William Sax
- Published on: 2010-01-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .50" w x 9.20" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

 [Download The Problem of Ritual Efficacy \(Oxford Ritual Stud ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Problem of Ritual Efficacy \(Oxford Ritual St ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax

Editorial Review

Review

"This collection of essays addresses the knotty and important problem of the efficacy of ritual from a variety of perspectives spanning the disciplines of anthropology and theology. Thematically focused and substantively rich, the volume will have considerable appeal to scholars and students in the fields of anthropology of religion, history of religions, ritual studies, and theology."

-- Thomas J. Csordas, author of *Body/Meaning/Healing and The Sacred Self: A Cultural Phenomenology of Charismatic Healing*

About the Author

For more information on the **Oxford Ritual Studies Series**, visit <http://ritualstudies.com>

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sandra Snyder:

The book The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So why must we leave the great thing like a book The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies)? A number of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you can give for each other; you may share all of these. Book The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) has simple shape but you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can seem the enormous world by open and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

Linda Gabriel:

This The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This particular The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) without we realize teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) can bring once you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not really

feel uninterested in reading.

Corinne Parsons:

Do you one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This *The Problem of Ritual Efficacy* (Oxford Ritual Studies) book is readable by simply you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer regarding *The Problem of Ritual Efficacy* (Oxford Ritual Studies) content conveys prospect easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different available as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking *The Problem of Ritual Efficacy* (Oxford Ritual Studies) is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Nancy Herman:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new information. When you read a e-book you will get new information due to the fact book is one of several ways to share the information as well as their idea. Second, studying a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you studying a book especially fictional book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other people. When you read this *The Problem of Ritual Efficacy* (Oxford Ritual Studies), it is possible to tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a guide.

Download and Read Online *The Problem of Ritual Efficacy* (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax #YWZVANIT41S

Read The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax for online ebook

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax books to read online.

Online The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax ebook PDF download

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax Doc

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax Mobipocket

The Problem of Ritual Efficacy (Oxford Ritual Studies) From William Sax EPub