
Introduction

From the beginnings of the sub-discipline, economic anthropology has been concerned with circulation, and arguably this is the topic through which sub-disciplinary work has had the most notable impact on anthropology generally and on those from other disciplines. Circulation is also the topic where what economic anthropologists have to say touches most directly on popular economic thought, especially the idea of the market. The chapters in Part III cover the classic forms of circulation that have interested those in the sub-discipline, ranging from formal ceremonial exchange to monetised markets. The final chapter is a consideration of circulation of a special sort, one that exists in the absence of exchange. This chapter is a sketch of a topic that has, thus far, attracted relatively little attention. However, it is a rewarding one because, however quietly, it raises questions about what seems to be a common assumption, that circulation requires the exchange of value.