

## **IN-SITU DISPLACEMENT: HINDUS AND THE MAKING OF MUSLIM MAJORITARIAN RULE**

**SHELLEY FELDMAN**

This book project investigates the practices of *in-situ* displacement, being displaced while remaining in place, that lie at the heart of the construction of Hindus as national *others*. Products of the 1947 Partition presupposing a Muslim Pakistan and Hindu India, displacement, (mis)recognition, and the expropriation of resources and rights have been important features of Hindu belonging and sovereignty in the construction of relations of rule. Significantly, contingent meanings of belonging are constituted in the context of what are arguably changing nationalist projects, as well as in relation to the country's regional neighbors, India and Pakistan. My focus is on the unfolding of these practices in the territory known first as East Bengal, then East Pakistan, and, following a struggle for independence, as Bangladesh during four historical moments: a) East Bengal/East Pakistan, 1947-1971, during the territory's second colonial encounter; b) post-independence, 1971-1975, following the struggle for recognition and autonomy; c) under military rule, 1975-1990, and the explicit framing of a project of majoritarian rule, and, d) since the institutionalization of electoral politics, 1991-2015, under different claims of democratic rule. This temporal framing showcases the contradictions and contestations that characterize and constitute relations of belonging and national imaginings across this temporal landscape. Employing an historical comparative sociological analyses, I draw on national archives, Transfer Notes from District Commissioners from the 1940s through the 1980s, and court cases from across this landscape which reveal negotiations over rights, recognition, and property. I draw as well on interview data collected during the current period to expose how majoritarian politics are enacted through processes and practices of the in-situ displacement of Bangladeshi Hindu citizens.