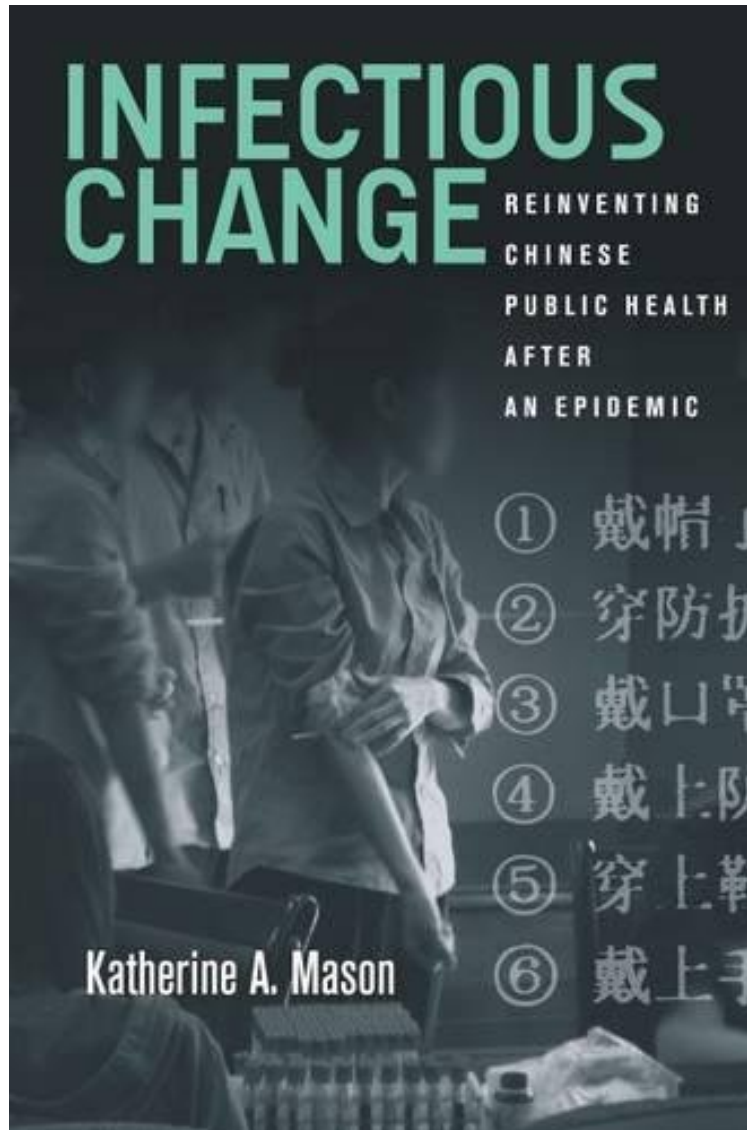


(Get free) Infectious Change: Reinventing Chinese Public Health After an Epidemic

Infectious Change: Reinventing Chinese Public Health After an Epidemic

Katherine Mason

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Katherine Mason : Infectious Change: Reinventing Chinese Public Health After an Epidemic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Infectious Change: Reinventing Chinese Public Health After an Epidemic:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An important insight into SARS and the control of infectious disease
By DMProf. Mason undertakes one of the most comprehensive studies of infectious disease in urban China to date. She plots a direct relation between the outbreak of SARS and the growth of the Chinese public health infrastructure. It is an extremely thoughtful and lucid discussion, and especially for an academic book, extremely readable. I strongly recommend it.

In February 2003, a Chinese physician crossed the border between mainland China and Hong Kong, spreading Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) a novel flu-like virus to over a dozen international hotel guests. SARS went on to kill about 800 people and sicken 8,000 worldwide. By July 2003 the disease had disappeared, but it left an indelible change on public health in China. The Chinese public health system, once famous for its grassroots, low-technology approach, was transformed into a globally-oriented, research-based, scientific endeavor. In *Infectious Change*, Katherine A. Mason investigates local Chinese public health institutions in Southeastern China, examining how the outbreak of SARS re-imagined public health as a professionalized, biomedicalized, and technological machine one that frequently failed to serve the Chinese people. Mason recounts the rapid transformation as young, highly-trained biomedical scientists flooded into local public health institutions, replacing bureaucratic government inspectors who had dominated the field for decades. *Infectious Change* grapples with how public health in China was reinvented into a prestigious profession in which global impact and recognition were paramount and service to vulnerable local communities was secondary.

"*Infectious Change* brings us for the first time before a hitherto unacknowledged consequence of the 2009 H1N1 crisis, and, at that, in one of the most epidemiologically critical regions of the globe today. It is this invaluable insight that should hold the attention not only of medical anthropologists but also of the wider global health community." (Christos Lynteris *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*) "This is an excellent, thought-provoking book, which will appeal to those with interests in contemporary China, medical anthropology, and histories of health and disease. It yields insights that will illuminate broader debates, such as those that pivot on the challenges inherent in promoting the "global" as a category in health." (Robert Peckham *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*) "In this defining ethnography of China's public health system and its complex relation to epidemics, Katherine Mason brilliantly describes health professionals, their struggles to be effective and ethical, the barriers they face, and how they animate the Chinese public health system as a lived reality. *Infectious Change* is an impressive contribution to both China studies and to medical anthropology!" (Arthur Kleinman, Director Harvard Asia Center) "Katherine Mason's book is an important contribution to the fields of Chinese studies and anthropology, joining a recent spate of excellent studies using the methods of anthropology to look at the intersections of public health, cultural practices and politics in China...Mason's book reminds us that implementing public health policy is never only about what is technically correct. It is about the cultural values and practices that govern relationships. It is also about understanding the power dynamics of the political system and generating the political will to construct an enabling environment and accountability mechanism to achieve it. In China, the tensions between centre and local are rarely resolved in favour of local and when new criteria for professional advancement are introduced, it results in the type of dysfunction so masterfully described by Mason." (Joan Kaufman *China Quarterly*) "Meticulously crafted, *Infectious Change* draws readers into the world of Chinese public health after SARS. Mason documents fundamentally different approaches to epidemic control among global, state, and local practitioners, including management of migratory populations, data collection, and ethics, arguing that global directives often stymie local efforts. This book elucidates why epidemic prevention everywhere must draw on local knowledge and practices." (Margaret Lock author of *The Alzheimer Conundrum*)
About the Author
Katherine A. Mason is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Brown University.