



ROADS

An Anthropology of Infrastructure and Expertise

BY PENNY HARVEY AND HANNAH KNOX

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“What is the relation between the unity and stability of the nation-state and the state of a nation’s infrastructure? In addressing this question, *Roads* forces us to consider, among much else, the expertise of infrastructure’s architects, the construction engineers, whose work is attuned to the instability, unruliness and unevenness of the environments within which infrastructure is assembled. The infrastructure of the road turns out not to be the stable base on which the state can ground its existence, but a situated achievement. Penny Harvey and Hannah Knox’s remarkable ethnography of infrastructure is a vital intervention,

in anthropology and beyond.”—ANDREW BARRY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, AUTHOR OF *MATERIAL POLITICS: DISPUTES ALONG THE PIPELINE*

PENNY HARVEY is Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester and Director of the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change. She is the author of *Hybrids of Modernity: Anthropology, the Nation State and the Universal Exhibition* and coeditor of *Technologized Images, Technologized Bodies, Objects and Materials: A Routledge Companion*, and *Anthropology and Science: Epistemologies in Practice*.

HANNAH KNOX is a Lecturer in Digital Anthropology and Material Culture at University College London.

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