

MODERN LOVES

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*Loves*

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF  
ROMANTIC COURTSHIP & COMPANIONATE MARRIAGE

JENNIFER S. HIRSCH AND  
HOLLY WARDLOW, *Editors*

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*To our modern loves,*

JOHN & KEN

*JSH and HW*

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Over the many years it has taken to bring this volume to fruition, we have taken to referring to it as our labor of love. While this might seem at first like just the sort of silly pun that people who work with words for a living rely on to amuse themselves, the idea of a labor of love is in fact resonant on many levels with the work we present here. First of all, this volume is a demonstration of our love for our work; as anyone who has ever produced an edited volume can attest, the amount of work required to go from a panel at a professional meeting (in our case, the 1999 American Anthropological Association meeting in Chicago) to a physical volume is both great and greatly out-of-proportion to the rather modest professional reward that even the finest edited volumes generate. Our commitment to seeing this project through draws in no small part from our love for our discipline. That is the “love takes work” part of the labor of love.

Next, of course, comes our love for our colleagues—and to express our gratitude for a group that has stood by us for six years (at least), holding back papers that they might have more quickly published in a journal, love is perhaps not too strong a word. Certainly we are grateful as well to Laura Ahearn and Yunxiang Yan, whose outstanding service as discussants at that panel and whose seminal work in the anthropology of love laid the groundwork for the research presented here. The fact that we had given our word to these valued colleagues about this volume also kept us going; another face of love, in our part of the world, is commitment.

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