

# PRESS RELEASE

## Cultural Immune Systems

This book explores a simple but ambitious—some might say hubristic—idea: that, adjacent to our organismic immune system, humans are endowed with cultural immune systems that bestow both individuals and groups—the extrasomatic and intersomatic systems we partake in—with resilience. Biological immune systems regulate the allostatic functioning of the body; in a similar manner, the intersomatic, social systems that we take part in, and upon which our survival depends as much as upon our organic body, are regulated by what the author suggests we name cultural immune systems.

Both biological and social interaction spheres are essentially living systems, and as such they are subject to annihilation when the immune systems ensuring their functional integration eventually fail. Cells, organisms, marriages, communities, societies—all are temporally constrained structures that for a time uphold their integrity by creating local predictability at different levels of organization. As such, culture(s) are just another name for the immune processes by which we uphold the functional integrity of our precarious social world(s).

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### THE AUTHOR

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### WHY CULTURES PERSIST. TOWARD A CULTURAL IMMUNOLOGY

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ISBN 978 87 7219 626 8  
496 PAGES  
499,95 DKK  
RELEASE DATE: November 30 2023

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