

## “UNRULY” CHILDREN

How do we become moral persons? What about children’s active learning in contrast to parenting? What can children teach us about knowledge-making more broadly? Answer these questions by delving into the groundbreaking ethnographic fieldwork conducted by anthropologists Arthur and Margery Wolf in a Martial Law Era Taiwanese village (1958–60), marking the first-ever study of ethnic Han children. Jing Xu skillfully reinterprets the Wolfs’ extensive fieldnotes, employing a unique blend of humanistic interpretation, natural language processing (NLP), and machine-learning techniques. Through a lens of social cognition, this book unravels the complexities of children’s moral growth, exposing instances of disobedience, negotiation, and peer dynamics. Writing *through* and *about* fieldnotes, the author connects the two themes, learning morality and making ethnography, in light of social cognition, and invites all of us to take children seriously. This book is ideal for graduate and undergraduate students of anthropology and educational studies.

JING XU is an anthropologist at the University of Washington and the author of *The Good Child: Moral Development in a Chinese Preschool* (Stanford University Press, 2017). She pursues interdisciplinary research, bringing together humanistic and scientific perspectives to study how humans become moral persons.

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# “Unruly” Children

*Historical Fieldnotes and Learning  
Morality in a Taiwan Village*



JING XU

*University of Washington*





CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009416269](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009416269)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009416269](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009416269)

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009416269](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009416269)

First published 2025

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Xu, Jing, 1983– author.

TITLE: “Unruly” children : historical fieldnotes and learning morality in a Taiwan village /  
Jing Xu, University of Washington.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY, USA : Cambridge  
University Press, 2025. | Series: New departures in anthropology |  
Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024001559 | ISBN 9781009416276 (hardback) |  
ISBN 9781009416269 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Children – Taiwan. | Moral development – Taiwan. |  
Child psychology – Taiwan. | Children – Research – Taiwan.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC HQ792.T33 X82 2025 | DDC 155.4/1823–dc23/eng/20240526  
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024001559>

ISBN 978-1-009-41627-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-41625-2 Paperback

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