

“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*



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