

BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO ANTHROPOLOGY

# A Companion to South Asia in the Past

"South Asia is one of the most important regions in the world for understanding the human past, biological and cultural, and the range and depth of *A Companion to South Asia in the Past* will do much to bring that significance to a wider audience."

**Robert Foley**, *Leverhulme Professor of Human Evolution, University of Cambridge*

*A Companion to South Asia in the Past* provides a thorough description of research on South Asia's past, from the Pleistocene to the historic era in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. The chapters describe the peopling of South Asia, archaeological and bioarchaeological perspectives on human biocultural diversity in the subcontinent, and points of entry for understanding the meaning of complex phenomena observable in the South Asian context, from urbanism to monument construction, from economic exchange relationships to commodity cult. The authors cover the history of research, major theoretical concerns, current insights, and future challenges for the next generation of scholars working in this region.

Contributions are provided by a truly global range of experts—more than 40 scholars from Bangladesh, Canada, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and the United States—from a variety of subdisciplinary backgrounds, including palaeoanthropology, archaeology, archaeogenetics, bioarchaeology, isotopic analysis, and history. The diversity of scholarly training represented in this volume provides fresh and sometimes critical perspectives on archaeology and anthropology in South Asia. The result is a volume that provides a unique and definitive resource for anthropologists, South Asianists, and students of these disciplines.

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