

NEW BOOKS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

BUI THANH TRUYEN (Editor, 2018), **Ecological literary criticism in prose from the South**, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 291 pp.

Ecological literary criticism appeared in Britain and the U.S. in the late twentieth century in the context of a severe global environment crisis which quickly spread to many countries, including Vietnam. Ecological criticism is the study of the relationship between man and nature, literature and the environment. On the basis of initial analysis and assessment of prose from the South from the perspective of the ecological literary criticism, the book contributes to clarify the harmonious relationship between people and the natural and social environment on the basis of modern humanity for the sustainable development of the South at present and in the future. In parallel, the authors explain the reasons for the writers of ecology in the South to become witnesses of the water civilization and environmentalists.

The collection of articles is presented in 4 chapters. Chapter 1 provides an overview of ecological literary criticism. Analysis in chapter 2 shows that ecological criticism is a potential trend in literary research. Chapter 3 approaches modern prose from the South from the perspective of ecological criticism. Chapter 4 is the initial research on prose of the South after 1986 from the approach of ecological criticism.

HOAI PHUC

PHAM VAN HUNG (2019), **Culture of Sexuality in Vietnam from the 10th to the 19th Century (monograph)**, Publishing House of Vietnam National University, Hanoi, 402pp.

Despite of richness and diversity in sexual frameworks in Vietnamese culture of sexuality due to the influence of Chinese culture of sexuality in the medieval times, there is a dearth of summaries and transmission for next generations through written material. The book outlines Vietnamese culture of sexuality in the X-XIX centuries mainly reflected in two written sources, history and literature. Thereby it partly shows some mystical sexual fantasies, the shift of sexual feelings, incest, homosexuality, gender transitioning, tragedy of sexuality as a commodity, etc. in a sexual life that has many dark corners and shadows with private stories such as the right to express gender identity, the status of the few, sexual autonomy, etc.

The book contributes to clarify many social problems and “legacies” of the medieval sexual culture that exist in the modern times. Over centuries, they have maintained the original “simplicity” with misconceptions and prejudices that have been a great difficulty to overcome and raised limitations and defects that not only caused by social or gender inequality in the layers and seams of sexual cultural sediments. The book consists of 3 chapters: Chapter 1. Between rules and law: Instinct and norms; Chapter 2. Great room: Senses

of beauty and sexual pleasure; Chapter 3. Changes and specific sexual phenomena.

TA.

NGO PHUONG LAN (2019), **Ethnic livelihoods in the contemporary Vietnamese context**, Publishing House of Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, 430pp.

Each ethnic group, depending on its natural conditions and specific social environment, will have a livelihood mode to survive and develop, contributing to its own culture. Livelihoods, which have changed over time, is actually a cultural change, to adapt to natural conditions and new social environment.

The book includes 22 anthropological research papers on the topic of livelihoods of ethnic groups in Vietnam in the context of socio-economic changes, especially the strong participation in market production of ethnic groups. From different perspectives, the papers provide a systematic and comprehensive view of ethnic livelihoods in the contemporary Vietnamese context through the following main issues: First, explore the changes of ethnic livelihoods in some ethnic communities of Khmer, Xtieng, Ruc, Kinh, Thai, Cil, Lat (Lach), Sre, etc. resulting such consequences as dynamism and diversity of livelihood modes or rural-urban migration phenomenon; cultural adaptability to living environment. Second, to clarify that market-oriented production has affected and shaped the thinking of exploiting natural resources; From there, it shows that farmers have formed a thinking about distributing risks in production activities to adapt to new

conditions or the exhaustion of marine resources in some localities. Third, making recommendations to help develop livelihoods and sustainable livelihoods for ethnic groups.

QT.

TRAN THI THU THUY (editor, 2019), **Conservation and promotion of water puppet values in the community (case studies of water puppet groups in the Northern Delta)**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 567 pp.

Water puppetry is a unique folk art form of Vietnam that thrives in the Northern Delta region. Historically, water puppet groups used to have many similarities. However, at present, water puppet groups are developing in different directions, some have turned water puppets into products for tourism, contributing to promoting the development of puppet groups, but there are also some facing many difficulties leading to be underdeveloped, even facing the risk of disintegration.

On the basis of fieldwork results in 16 water puppet groups in the Northern Delta, the book (including 4 chapters) analyzes and assesses the current state of conservation and exploitation of traditional water puppetry in cultural life of communities as well as in exploiting its value for local community based tourism development. Thereby, it proposes specific solutions for preserving and developing puppet arts in the process of building a new culture and a new rural development today. At the same time, the authors also give suggestions on organizing exhibitions, performances, filmmaking, developing educational programs and

communication strategies on folk water puppetry at museums and in communities to makes water puppetry become a unique cultural and tourism product.

HOAI PHUC

DINH TUAN MINH (2018), **Marketization of public service delivery in Vietnam**, Tri Thuc Publishing House, Hanoi, 349 pp.

Over the past 30 years of Doi Moi, Vietnam has gradually marketed the provision of public services. While the majority of private goods and services sectors have been marketed since 1990, some public services such as education, culture, health, fitness and sports... are only marketed on a trial basis for the first time after the VIII Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam (1996) under the name “socialization”. However, for a long time, the majority of public service delivery has continued to be undertaken by state

agencies. The book provides an analytical framework based on the new school of institutional economics as a tool to detect and replace bureaucratic mechanisms with market factors/forces in fields of public service delivery.

The book consists of 5 chapters. Chapter 1 builds an analytical framework for proposing a marketization policy for public service delivery from a new perspective of institutional economics. Chapters 2 and 3 evaluate the marketization of higher education service delivery and the urban environment in Vietnam. Chapter 4 examines good international principles and experiences/practices in engaging private resources in the provision of expressway infrastructure. Chapter 5 explores the theoretical and practical bases for assessing the marketization of conformity assessment services in Vietnam.

TK.