This book produced by a group of interdisciplinary and international researchers working on a wide variety of cities throughout Asia, Latin America and Europe, addresses, rethinks and, in some cases, abandons the notions of formal and informal urbanism. It critically interrogates both the ways in which ‘informal’ and ‘formal’ are put to work in the governing and politicisation of cities, and their conceptual strengths and weaknesses.

Contents: Introduction: the informal-formal divide in context, Colin McFarlane and Michael Waibel; Juggling with formality and informality in housing: some lessons from the new South Africa, Astrid Ley; Urban informality reconsidered in a neo-liberal context: Gecekondu, identity, poverty and Islamic philanthropism in Turkey, Neslihan Demirtas-Milz; ‘Informal moral economies’ and urban governance in India, Ajay Gandhi; Bajji on the beach: middle-class food practices in Chennai's New Beach, Pushpa Arabindoo; Informality as a strategy: street traders in Hanoi facing constant insecurity, Sandra Kurzürst; Informality as borrowed security: contested food markets in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Marcus Keck; Hip-hop and sociality in a Brazilian favela, Rita de Câcia Oenning da Silva and Kurt Shaw; The mode of informal urbanisation: reconciling social and statutory regulation in urban land management, Volker Kreibich; Conceptualising informality: some thoughts on the way towards generalisation, Uwe Altrock; Index.

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