

Studies in Human Ecology and Adaptation: A Note From The Series Editors

This volume, *As Pastoralists Settle*, edited by Elliot Fratkin and Eric Abella Roth, is the first in a new series launched by Kluwer Academic Publishers which will present studies in human ecology and adaptation under our general editorship. The objective of this series is to publish cutting-edge work on the bio-social processes of adaptation and human-environmental dynamics. We are committed to three initial volumes, including both archaeological and field research on contemporary populations, and hope that academic interest will permit us to add more, thereby making the series a major and continuing resource in the field of human ecology. Generally, scientific publications have the largest impact when they can be utilized in the classroom or by non-academic practitioners in addition to stimulating further research by specialists. Key to making these studies accessible to a broad readership is that they are clearly written and tightly focused. We have quite deliberately taken the journal *Human Ecology* as a model since it focuses on empirically rooted original research addressing a wide interdisciplinary readership. As a consequence, the journal has achieved considerable recognition among academic publications worldwide which deal with environmental issues. As with contributions to *Human Ecology*, potential manuscripts in this series are subject to peer review.

We hope that readers will agree that *As Pastoralists Settle* is both an outstanding contribution to the field and a splendid way to inaugurate this new book series. Following the detailed introduction by the very able editors, we have studies here by some of the foremost scholars of East African pastoralism, many of whom are contributors to *Human Ecology* in different capacities. Some 240 million, or approximately half of the world's agro-pastoralists live in Africa, of whom twenty-five million live in East Africa. Clearly the sedentarization of pastoralists is a major concern for those working in areas of national development, touching as it does on problems of inter-group competition including possible conflict, health and the delivery of human services, gender roles, and the economics of food production and distribution. While there are a number of books which treat the settlement of pastoralists in different parts of the world, this is the first interdisciplinary collaboration involving anthropologists, health specialists, agronomists, experts in public administration and development, and others all focusing on the long-term causes and consequences of pastoral settlement in one relatively delineated geographic area—Marsabit district, Kenya. This geographic focus gives the book a unique perspective that looks beyond events, numbers, and trends to examine the complex

interplay of bio-social processes including health, & nutrition, child development, economic activities, and perceptions of risk and reward, as well as the unfortunate but ever-present potential for conflict. The international nature of the collaborative effort here is also unusual but extremely welcome and rewarding in the diversity of views it allows.

We are indebted to the scholars whose work is presented here and which cumulatively represents many lifetimes of meticulous and often arduous research. The necessarily anonymous reviewers have made a significant contribution to the publication process, which we gratefully acknowledge here. We would also like to express our gratitude to our far-sighted, perhaps even fearless, editors at Kluwer Academic Publishers Myriam Poort and Teresa Krauss.

Daniel G. Bates
Ludomir R. Lozny

Hunter College, C.U.N.Y.

As Pastoralists Settle

Social, Health, and Economic Consequences of the
Pastoral Sedentarization in Marsabit District, Kenya

Fratkin, E.; Roth, E.A. (Eds.)

2005, X, 280 p.,

ISBN: 978-0-306-48595-4