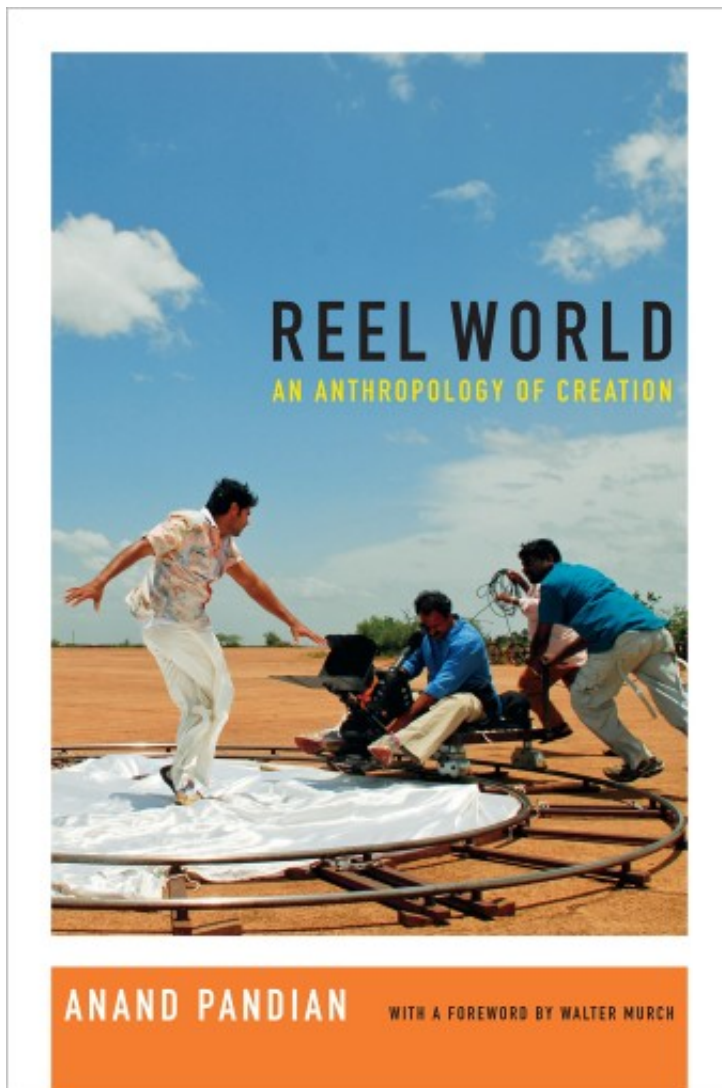


<http://somatosphere.net/2015/12/book-forum-anand-pandians-reel-world-a-n-anthropology-of-creation.html>

Book Forum—Anand Pandian's "Reel World: An Anthropology of Creation"

2015-12-17 00:11:15

By Todd Meyers



Anand Pandian's [Reel World: An Anthropology of Creation](#) is a fascinating and truly inspired inquiry into questions of experience and the media through which experience is rendered (word, image, and sound) in and about Tamil cinema and beyond. Pandian walks a path where visions are realized between seen-ness and feltness, between openness and the

limits of the frame. Much in the way Gilles Deleuze appraised Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology as a way to think through the problem of sensation in the paintings of Francis Bacon—whose figures (and their creator) struggled to “make” sensation within the dimensions of the canvas—Pandian offers a similar appraisal of the action and trace of creation, not of the body and its excesses, but of the cinematic scene and its making. At its core, *Reel World* is a fine-grained ethnography of cinema and filmmaking—of creating images, taming images, blurring them and infusing them with other things—that extends the horizon of ethnographic telling. Creation is not so much technique—not simply the shape of content, of character and storyline, of special effects—but a contest between minor voices, ambitions, the parallel technologies of writing and designing sound+image, dreams, stagings, recordings and lost traces, and for Pandian, looping the reel of this real back through a set of his own anthropological concerns.

The following is an exceptional set of commentaries. We hope you enjoy.

Comments on Anand Pandian's [Reel World: An Anthropology of Creation](#) (Duke University Press, 2015)

[A Horizon of Possibility](#)

[Eduardo Kohn](#)

McGill University

[Questions of Scope: The Reel and the Réel](#)

[Stephen Chrisomalis](#)

Wayne State University

[Anand Pandian's Anthropology of Creation](#)

[Stephanie Spray](#)

Harvard University

[Colors](#)

[Brian Larkin](#)

Barnard College

[Reel Waves](#)

[Stefan Helmreich](#)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[Break with the Program](#)

[Richard Baxstrom](#)

University of Edinburgh

[For a Creative Anthropology: A Reply](#)

[Anand Pandian](#)

Johns Hopkins University

AMA citation

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APA citation

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Chicago citation

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Harvard citation

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