

OLD WISDOM

Customary Dispute Systems
from Africa, Asia, and Europe

Editors:

Christian-Radu Chereji
Constantin-Ciprian Sandu



PRESA UNIVERSITARĂ CLUJEANĂ

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CONSTANTIN-CIPRIAN SANDU**

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Old Wisdom: Customary Dispute Systems from Africa, Asia, and Europe brings together an international group of scholars and practitioners exploring how communities across different cultures have historically managed conflict outside formal state institutions. Spanning regions as diverse as Northern Albania, Crete, Cameroon, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Israel, Romania, and the southern Philippines, the volume examines customary dispute systems not as relics of the past, but as living, adaptive frameworks through which communities continue to negotiate order, restore relationships, and preserve social cohesion. Through studies of blood-feud mediation, apology rituals, clan-based negotiation, restorative practices, Roma tribunals, *jirga*, *sulha*, *adat*, and indigenous sultanate mechanisms, the contributors reveal the cultural logics that shape peaceful conflict resolution across societies. At a time when scholars and practitioners increasingly recognize the limits of top-down approaches to peacebuilding and governance, this volume offers a timely and comparative exploration of how local communities construct authority, legitimacy, reconciliation, and social repair. Bridging anthropology, conflict resolution, mediation studies, and legal pluralism, *Old Wisdom* invites readers to rethink the relationship between culture, conflict, and the enduring human search for social harmony.



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