



Understanding Historical (Im)Politeness: Relational linguistic practice over time and across cultures (Benjamins Current Topics)

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Exploring a largely uncharted territory of cultural history and linguistic ethnography, *Understanding Historical (Im)Politeness* offers in-depth analyses and perceptive interpretations of the conveyance of social-relational meaning in times (long) past and across historical cultures.

A collection of essays from the pens of authoritative historical (pragma)-linguistics researchers, the volume examines the forms and functions of historical (im)politeness, varying from single utterances and act sequences to fully-fledged (im)polite speech encounters and genres, with a focus on their period- and culture-bound appraisal. What is more, the book sheds light on what is still very dimly seen: diachronic trends in 'relational work' and the cultural-societal factors behind patterns of sociopragmatic change. The volume reviews theoretical concepts, methods and analytical approaches to improve our present-day understanding of the historical understanding of relational practices of the distant as well as the more recent past. Since it includes newly established themes and positions and breaks new ground, this collection furthers considerably the field of historical (im)politeness research.

This volume was originally published as a special issue of *Journal of Historical Pragmatics* 12:1/2 (2011).

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