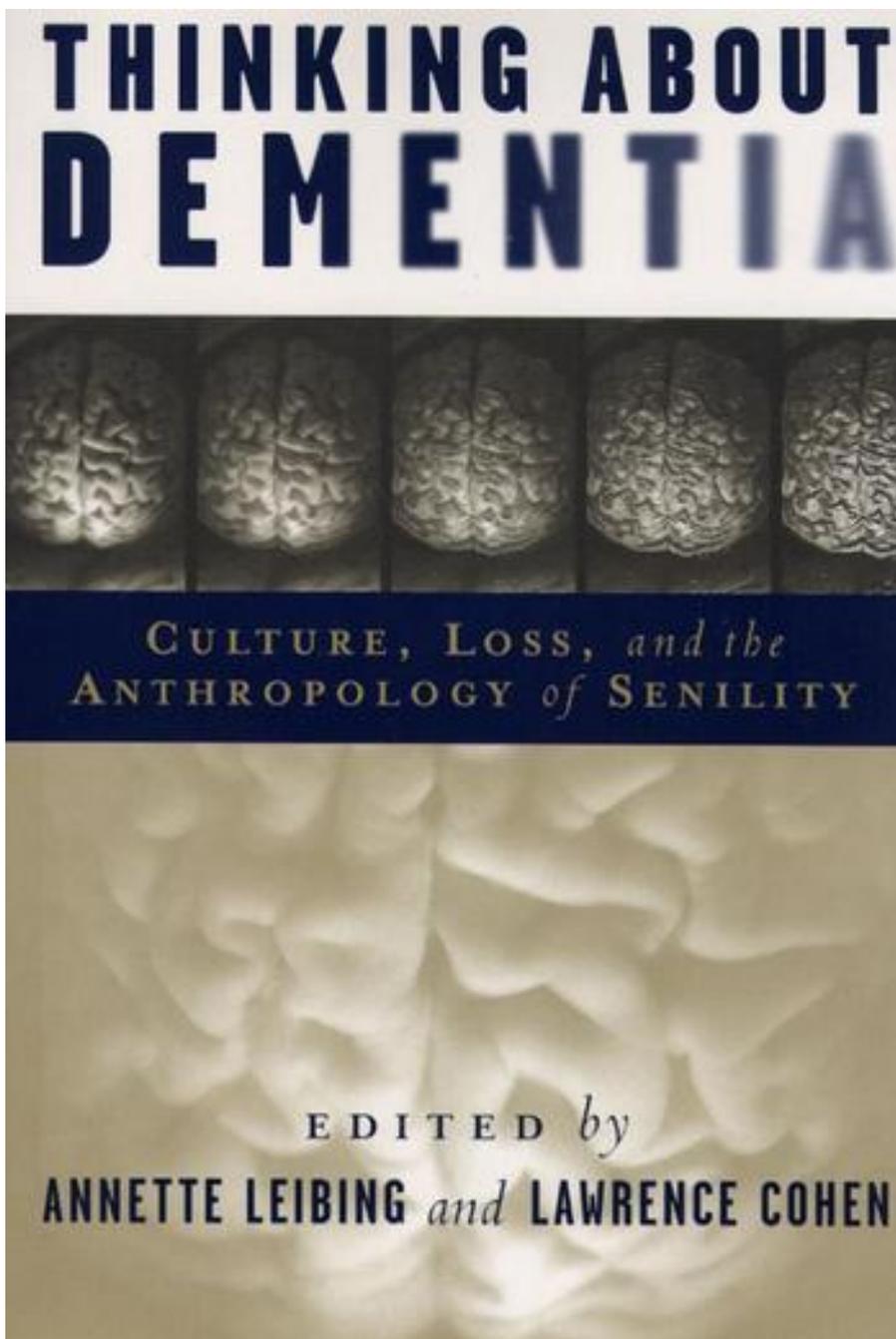


## Thinking About Dementia : Culture, Loss, and the Anthropology of Senility

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**Author(s)** [Leibing, Annette](#); [Cohen, Lawrence](#)

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**Abstract** Bringing together essays by nineteen respected scholars, this volume approaches dementia from a variety of perspectives and implications. The authors employ a cross-cultural perspective that is based on ethnographic fieldwork and theory, and affect. Taken together, the essays make four important and interrelated contributions to our understanding of dementia: first, that the aging process, while biologically influenced, is also culturally constructed. Second, ethnographic research shows that elderly people are often perceived as demented. Third, case studies show how a diagnosis affects a patient's treatment in both clinical and legal settings. Fourth, it separates current biological understandings of aging from its cultural meanings.

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