Fields of Desire

Poverty and Policy in Laos

Holly High
Contents

List of Maps viii
List of Illustrations viii
Acknowledgements ix
Note on Transcription xiii

1 Introduction: Towards a Political Ethnography of Desire 1

2 Eat with You: Power as Nurturing and Devouring 24

3 The Mobility of the Marginal 44

4 Poverty becomes You: Black, White and Gold 69

5 Stories of State 86

6 Resurrecting the State: "The will and desire of the people" 106

7 The Participatory Poverty Reduction Project 125

8 Mutual Aid: Delirium and the Political Field 151

9 Conclusion: Fieldnotes from the Postrevolution 169

Notes 179

Bibliography 193

Index 204