

“INDIGENOUS ASIAs” (41:1 SPRING 2015)

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RELEVANT FIELDS OF STUDY

Anthropology	Asian American Literature	Asian Studies
Film Studies	History	Indigenous Literature
Indigenous Studies	Japanese Studies	Okinawan Studies
Pacific Islands Studies	Philippine Studies	Taiwan Studies

PRIMARY CONCEPTS

American Empire	Decolonization	Diaspora
Ethnography	Gender	Indigenous History
Indigenous Networking	Japanese Empire	Militarism
Resistance	Social Movements	Transnational Activism

ISSUE SUMMARY

This issue contemplates what it means to be indigenous and, from that direction, questions the political, geographic, national and postcolonial constructs of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Asian diasporic communities. The volume also focuses on how indigenous groups engage with and resist settler cultures, transnational imperialism, and globalization.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

- Does identifying as an “Asian American” clash with being an “indigenous Asian” subject? How do the discourses of national identities and power configurations between the United States, Asian countries, and indigenous communities inform the way individual actors build their own identities? **Compare Tony Coolidge’s self-expression (in the Beaugard article) with that of Masao Yamashiro’s (in the Kosaka article).**
- What does “ethnographical refusal” mean? Does it affect your research? **See the Introduction by Dvorak and Tanji.**
- Does the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples support or inspire the Indigenous people in your country? **See the introduction by Dvorak and Tanji and the articles by Yokota and Casumbal-Salazar.**
- What are the pros and cons of films on indigenous issues? **See the articles by Fu and Beaugard in particular.**
- How have Okinawans asserted themselves as indigenous, and how does this help them to resist both American and Japanese militarism? How is their indigeneity reinforced by repeated colonizations? **See the articles by Yokota and Chu.**
- How is indigeneity framed in Taiwan and why is it problematic for Taiwanese “aboriginal” groups? **See the Introduction by Dvorak and Tanji and the articles by Beaugard and Fu in particular.**

ESSENTIAL READING

Greg Dvorak, *Coral and Concrete: Remembering Japanese and American Empire in the Marshall Islands* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, forthcoming).

J. Kēhaulani Kauanui, *Hawaiian Blood: Colonialism and the Politics of Sovereignty and Indigeneity* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2008).

Benedict Kingsbury, “‘Indigenous Peoples’ in International Law: A Constructivist Approach to the Asian Controversy,” in Christian Erni, ed., *The Concept of Indigenous Peoples in Asia: A Resource Book* (Copenhagen: International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, 2008), 103-158.

anne-elise lewallen, “Bones of Contention: Negotiating Anthropological Ethics within Fields of AINU Refusal,” *Critical Asian Studies* 39:4 (2007): 509-540.

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, “Tourists, Anthropologists and Visions of Indigenous Society in Japan,” in Mark Hudson, anne-elise lewallen, and Mark K. Watson, eds., *Beyond AINU Studies* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2014), 46-66.

Sherry Ortner, “Resistance and the Problem of Ethnographic Refusal,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 37: 1 (January 1995): 173-193.

Audra Simpson, “On Ethnographic Refusal: Indigeneity, ‘Voice’ and Colonial Citizenship,” *Junctures* 9 (December 2007).

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* (London: Zed Books, 2012).

Miyume Tanji, *Myth, Protest, and Struggle in Okinawa* (London: Routledge, 2006).

Kamala Viswaswaran, *Fictions of Feminist Ethnography* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1994).

Mark Watson, *Japan’s AINU Minority in Tokyo* (New York: Routledge, 2014).