

Two Spirit People

Selected Readings



Brown, Lester B., (ed.). (1997). *Two Spirit People: American Indian Lesbian Women and Gay Men*. New York: Haworth Press. This book explores the lives of American Indian lesbian women and gay men. The editor acknowledges six gender styles in traditional American Indian culture: men and women, not-men and not-women (persons of one biological sex assuming the identity of the opposite sex in some form), and gays and lesbians. He brings together chapters that emphasize American Indian spirituality, present new perspectives, and provide readers with a beginning understanding of the place of lesbian, gay and bisexual Indians within American Indian culture and the special challenges and multiple prejudices they face. He also writes

about AIDS and American Indians and mentions the fact that we need to develop strategies that are tailored to the Native American Indians. This book written in a way that makes it a good reference for a multi-faceted group of people. It is convenient for people who want to gather introductory information on Two Spirited people and also for those might want information about prevention strategies targeting native Americans.

Jacobs, Sue-Ellen, Thomas Wesley & Sabine Lang. (1997). *Two-Spirit People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press. This book combines the voices of Native Americans and non-Indians, anthropologists and others, in an exploration of gender and sexuality issues as they relate to lesbian, gay, transgendered and other “marked” Native Americans. Focusing on the concept of two-spirit people –individuals not necessarily gay or lesbian, transvestite or bisexual, but whose behaviors or beliefs may sometimes be interpreted by others as uncharacteristic of their sex –this book is the first to provide an intimate look at how many two-spirit people feel about themselves, how other Native Americans treat them, and how anthropologists and other scholars interpret them and their cultures.

Williams, Walter. (1986). *The Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture*. Boston: Beacon Press. This book attempts to contribute to our understanding of Native American cultures as well as the growing history of sexuality. It takes anthropological and historical approach to understanding berdache-, androgynous people who are classified as neither men nor women. .

Roscoe, Will.(2000). *Changing Ones: Third & Fourth Genders in Native North America*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin. Gender diversity is one of the most common and least understood features of native North America. Roscoe carefully reconstructs the work and social roles of men and women in traditional tribal cultures and traces their history up to the present. The result is a strikingly different view of native North America.

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