

Aboriginal Readings

Selected Writings



Brush, Stephen B., & Doreen Stabinsky (eds.). (1996.) *Valuing Local Knowledge: Indigenous People and Intellectual Property Rights*. Washington: Island Press. This book revisits issues around Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). It is a collection of papers from the global debate on the merit of intellectual property systems to protect cultural knowledge and the biological diversity of the planet. This is a definite read for those who want to know why IPR might not be an all inclusive concept. It portrays how the current IPR is a “western concept” not suitable for indigenous societies. The various parts of these difference make western IP conventions irrelevant to many societies that are rich in biological and cultural diversity. IPR should render culturally-appropriate rewards rather than market-driven rewards as the current IPR does.

Cruikshank, Julie. (1998). *The Social Life of Stories: Narrative and Knowledge in the Yukon Territory*. Vancouver: UBC Press. This text explores the social power and significance of oral narratives. Circumpolar Native people today experience strikingly different and often competing systems of narrative and knowledge. These systems include more traditional oral stories. The book examines how Natives use their stories and find them still meaningful in the late twentieth century and gives suggestions as to why oral narratives continue to thrive. This is an excellent read for people focussing on the powers of oral narratives with special attention on the Yukon territory or for those who simply want to understand why and how oral narrative is still an important aspect in some societies even in the twenty-first century.

Durst, Douglas. (2001). *Urban Aboriginal Persons with Disabilities: Triple Jeopardy*. Regina. University of Regina. This book covers the results of a two-year study which examines the challenges identified by First Nations urban disabled person and determines practical solutions to eliminate or overcome the obstacles. Using ‘action research’ as its main research methodology, the study found that the population of Aboriginal persons with disabilities are severely marginalised. They however go a step further by identifying possible solutions of ways of addressing the problem. They suggest amongst other things, the need for more organisation between provincial, federal and Band members so that their services are more accessible . This book is of particular interest to people who are conducting or interested in conducting research around Aboriginal people and disabilities but it is also carefully written to ensure that easy

readership to anybody interested in this topic.

Durst, Douglas. (2000). *Its Not What But How! Social Service Issues Affecting Aboriginal People: A Review of Projects*. Regina. University of Regina. This is a report from funding of a project to identify cultural appropriate social services of First Nations communities. The report calls for research projects that attempt to identify and describe those Aboriginal-specific values and traditions upon which social services structures and strategies could be used.

light the old and modern ways can be intertwined together to maintain continuity .

Fife, Connie. (ed.). (1993). *The Colour of Resistance: A Contemporary Collection of Writing by Aboriginal Women*. Toronto: Sister Vision Press. This is a collection of poems, fiction and non-fiction by Aboriginal women who have chosen writing as a form of resistance in order to have their voices heard through the use of contemporary tools such as writing of poems and fiction to express old beliefs in order to lay the seeds for future generations. Combining the old and new ways through this collection is meant to convey the resilience of their survival. For any body who is interested in poetry or fiction with particular focus on Aboriginal women, this anthology is for you. So varied are the topics covered in their different writings that there is a little something for everyone. It also brings to

Furniss, Elizabeth. (1999). *The Burden of History: Colonialism and the Frontier Myth in a Rural Canadian Community*. Vancouver: UBC Press. An ethnographic case study of Williams Lake, in British Columbia, looking at the roots of social conflicts and examines how prevalent colonial assumptions of history, identity, and Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations affect the lives of all area residents. While focussed on Williams Lake, this book has a much broader relevance and throws light on current debates about Aboriginal and settler understandings of history, the legitimacy of Aboriginal claims, and the place of Aboriginal people in Canadian society. The author writes a book that will be compelling to people who have an interest in historical discourse or interest in the "Frontier Myth" phenomenon.

Goulding, Warren. (2001). *Just Another Indian: A Serial Killer and Canada's Indifference*. Calgary: Fifth House. Journalist Warren Goulding traces the crimes, trail, convictions, and media treatment surrounding a serial killer. John Martin Crawford savagely raped and killed at least four Native women in the eighties and nineties in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Despite these gruesome murders, he remains virtually unknown to the world of crime. The author questions, and rightfully so, if John Martin Crawford's case was not publicised because his victims were native women. By raising disturbing questions about racism, police actions and policy, and the media, he shed light on a story that had by far too long been swept under the rug. He leaves the reader wondering if in Canada, some lives are worth more than others. He also depicts a Canadian justice system that is in his own words, "anything but fair." This mind boggling book takes a look at how even the most heinous crime can be viewed differently depending on where it takes place and who the victims are. A good source for information about a serial killer and his victims

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Posey, Darrell A. & Graham Dutfield. (1996). *Beyond Intellectual Property: Toward Traditional Resource Rights for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre. This text offers sound and reasonable advice on how indigenous peoples and local communities worldwide should approach and deal with the myriad issues surrounding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Traditional Resource Rights (TRR). This is a book which gives a critical view about the issues around IPR which has most recently resurfaced as a contentious issue especially when dealing also with indigenous TRR

White, Jerry P., Paul S. Maxim and Dan Beavon (2003). *Aboriginal Conditions; Research As a Foundation for Public Policy*. Vancouver. By Aboriginal Condition, it is meant that on almost every socio-economic or health indicator, Aboriginal people lag or do worse than none Aboriginal people within the Canadian society. The book is targeted at three groups; scientist, researchers and policy makers with the purpose of demonstrating what type of research is necessary as a foundation for public policy. It aims at building capacity in the First Nations Community and to make all the groups work better together. To better understand the Aboriginal condition, more research needs to be done to address this issue as well as to try to make all groups work together. This is a book that is a good reference for anyone doing research in Aboriginal communities.

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