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# Critical Reflections on Indigenous Religions

Edited by **James L. Cox**, University of Edinburgh, UK

*'From its inception, the discipline of religious studies adhered to a two-tier framework in which local, oral and ancestral religious traditions were subordinated in intellectual status and moral value to universal, textual and doctrinal ones. This wide-ranging and provocative volume marks a further decisive stage in the demolition of that framework. It will not conclude the debate about the definition of "indigenous religions" – for the contributors themselves engage with each other in that debate – but it will inform and sustain it for years to come.'*

Brian Stanley, University of Edinburgh, UK

The study of indigenous religions has become an important academic field, particularly since the religious practices of indigenous peoples are being transformed by forces of globalization and transcontinental migration. This book will further our understanding of indigenous religions by first considering key methodological issues related to defining and contextualizing the religious practices of indigenous societies, both historically and in socio-cultural situations. Two further sections of the book analyse cases derived from European contexts, which are often overlooked in discussion of indigenous religions, and in two traditional areas of study: South America and Africa.

*Contents:* Preface; PART I METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Reflecting critically on indigenous religions, *James L. Cox*; Why study indigenous religions?, *Graham Harvey*; Reflections on some problems in dealing with indigenous religions of the past: the case of pre-Christian Scandinavian religion, *Jens Peter Schjødt*; Religious traditions – kinship-based and/or universal?, *Ulrich Berner*. PART II EUROPEAN CONTEXTS: Enlightenment concepts, medieval contexts, *Carole M. Cusack*; Druidry and the definition of indigenous religions, *Suzanne Owen*; Defining the religion that lay behind the self-colonization of Europe, *Emily Lyle*. PART III SOUTH AMERICAN AND AFRICAN CONTEXTS: Don Cristóbal, Lloclayhuancupa and the Virgin: the battle of words in a colonial Quechua conversion narrative, *Sabine Dedenbach-Salazar Sáenz*; The spirit White Feather in São Paulo: the resilience of indigenous spirits in Brazil, *Bettina E. Schmidt*; Irreecha: an indigenous thanksgiving ceremony of the Oromo to the High God Waaqa, *Gemechu Jemal Geda*; Ritual and symbol: funeral and naming rituals in an African indigenous community, *Elijah Obinna*; Bibliography; Index.

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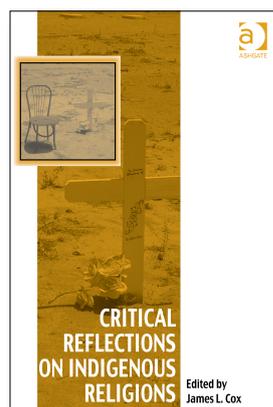
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August 2013

214 pages

Hardback

978-1-4094-4500-5

£55.00