

Discourses and Silences

Indigenous Peoples, Risks and Resistance

Discourses and Silences explores the commonalities and the specific experiences of Indigenous peoples as they work to recover their rights, and re-establish their collective identities, in a wide range of contexts. It comes out of the common life of the First Nations Working Group that met within the International Rural Sociology Congress in Trondheim, Norway in 2004. The chapters span the hemispheres and report on insights into Indigenous issues which come from Scandinavia and Asia, Hawai'i and Wisconsin, Australia and New Zealand.

We came to Norway, from other parts of the world, conscious of the ambiguities and the contested situations in our own countries. We arrived in Trondheim with an image of Norway and Sweden as liberal democratic nations where the rights of their Indigenous peoples were crisply defined and commonly affirmed. But as we journeyed, and as we reflected on the silences, we became aware that Indigenous rights in Norway and Sweden are as ambiguous and as contested as they are in New Zealand, Australia, Asia or Hawai'i.

We present our volume with a mixture of pride and humility. We are a small part of a much larger process of networking and mutual solidarity. Across the globe there are many meeting places and many forums where Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars work together to seek a more just and equitable world.

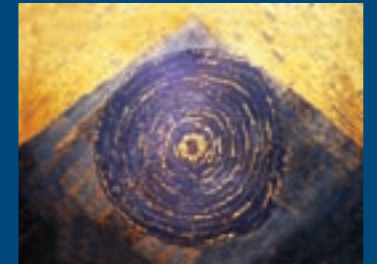
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