Legal Codes & Talking Trees: Indigenous Women’s Sovereignty in the Sonoran & Puget Sound Borderlands, 1854-1946

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Legal Codes & Talking Trees is the first text to focus on indigenous women of the Southwest and Pacific Northwest and the ways they dealt with the challenges of the existing legal regimes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In most western states, it was difficult for Native women to inherit property, raise mixed-race children, or take legal action in the event of rape or abuse. Through the experiences of six indigenous women, Jagodinsky explores a long yet generally unacknowledged tradition of active critique of the U.S. legal system by female Native Americans.