

# The Science of Settler Colonial Whiteness in Hawai'i and Oceania: A Groundbreaking Exploration

The Science of Settler Colonial Whiteness in Hawai'i and Oceania is a groundbreaking work that examines the complex interplay between science, colonialism, and the construction of whiteness in the Pacific Islands. Bringing together a diverse group of scholars, this book offers a critical analysis of the ways in which scientific knowledge has been used to justify and perpetuate settler colonial domination in Hawai'i and Oceania.



## Possessing Polynesians: The Science of Settler Colonial Whiteness in Hawai'i and Oceania

by Robert G. Wetzel

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 28844 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 311 pages



Through meticulous research and insightful analysis, this book unravels the intricate web of power relations that have shaped the racial landscape of these regions. It challenges dominant narratives about the "discovery" and "civilizing" of the Pacific Islands, exposing the violent and exploitative nature of settler colonialism. By centering the voices and experiences of

indigenous communities, the book provides a nuanced understanding of the lasting impacts of colonialism on their cultures, identities, and well-being.

## **The Science of Settler Colonial Whiteness**

The concept of settler colonial whiteness is central to this book. Settler colonialism is a particular form of colonialism in which European settlers established permanent settlements in indigenous lands, often through violent dispossession and subjugation of the original inhabitants.

Whiteness, in this context, is not simply a matter of skin color but a social and political construct that has been used to justify the domination and exploitation of indigenous peoples.

This book demonstrates how scientific knowledge has been instrumental in constructing and maintaining settler colonial whiteness in Hawai'i and Oceania. Through the lens of science, indigenous peoples have been portrayed as inferior, savage, and in need of "civilization." Scientific expeditions, ethnographic studies, and medical practices have all been used to justify the displacement, dispossession, and assimilation of indigenous communities.

## **Case Studies from Hawai'i and Oceania**

The book presents a series of in-depth case studies that explore the specific ways in which science has been used to advance settler colonial agendas in Hawai'i and Oceania. These case studies examine a wide range of topics, including:

- The use of scientific racism to justify the annexation of Hawai'i
- The role of anthropology in the colonization of Oceania

- The impact of medical research on indigenous health and well-being
- The ways in which scientific knowledge has been used to suppress indigenous languages and cultures

These case studies provide concrete examples of the ways in which science has been complicit in the oppression of indigenous peoples.

### **Implications for Today**

The Science of Settler Colonial Whiteness in Hawai'i and Oceania is not only a historical account but also a call to action. It challenges us to rethink the role of science in society and to recognize the ways in which it can be used to perpetuate injustice and inequality.

This book has important implications for contemporary debates about race, colonialism, and indigenous rights. It provides a framework for understanding the ongoing legacy of settler colonialism in the Pacific Islands and beyond. By shedding light on the science of settler colonial whiteness, this book empowers us to challenge racist narratives and to work towards a more just and equitable future.

The Science of Settler Colonial Whiteness in Hawai'i and Oceania is a groundbreaking work that will undoubtedly shape our understanding of the history and legacy of colonialism in the Pacific Islands. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the intersections of race, science, and colonialism.

### **Author Biographies**

The Science of Settler Colonial Whiteness in Hawai'i and Oceania is edited by Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua, Robert K. Hau'ofa, and Anneliese M. Heino. Goodyear-Ka'ōpua is an Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at the

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Hau'ofa was a Professor of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. Heino is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

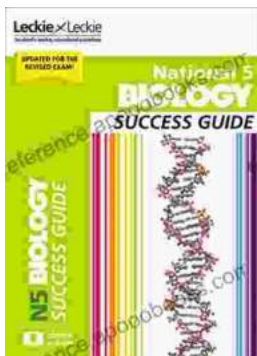


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