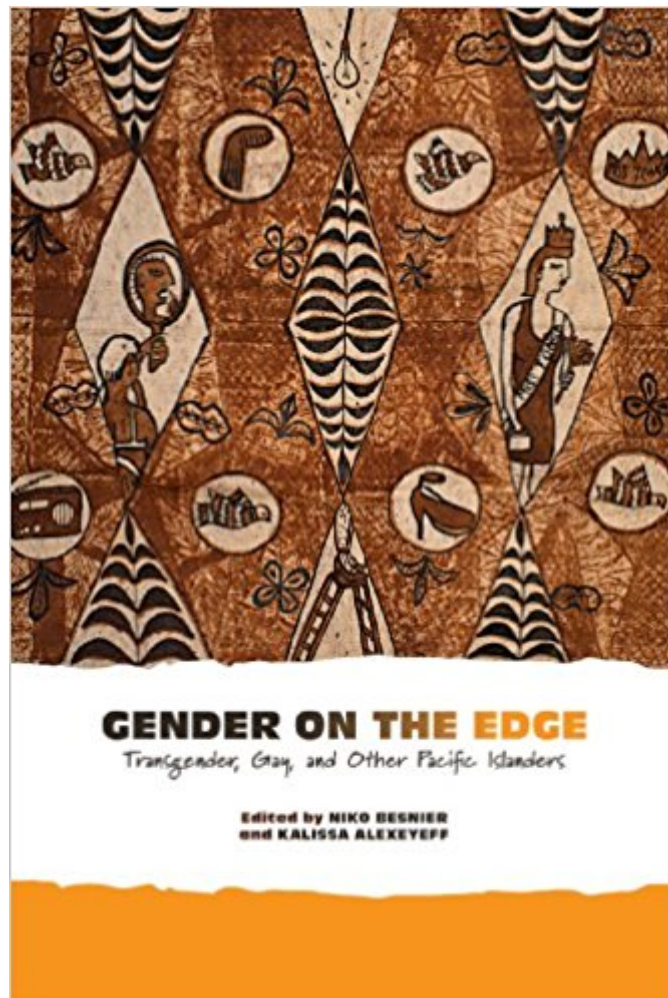


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Gender On The Edge: Transgender, Gay, And Other Pacific Islanders



Synopsis

Transgender identities and other forms of gender and sexuality that transcend the normative pose important questions about society, culture, politics, and history. They force us to question, for example, the forces that divide humanity into two gender categories and render them necessary, inevitable, and natural. The transgender also exposes a host of dynamics that, at first glance, have little to do with gender or sex, such as processes of power and domination; the complex relationship among agency, subjectivity, and structure; and the mutual constitution of the global and the local. Particularly intriguing is the fact that gender and sexual diversity appear to be more prevalent in some regions of the world than in others. This edited volume is an exploration of the ways in which non-normative gendering and sexuality in one such region, the Pacific Islands, are implicated in a wide range of socio-cultural dynamics that are at once local and global, historical, and contemporary. The authors recognize that different social configurations, cultural contexts, and historical trajectories generate diverse ways of being transgender across the societies of the region, but they also acknowledge that these differences are overlaid with commonalities and predictabilities. Rather than focus on the definition of identities, they engage with the fact that identities do things, that they are performed in everyday life, that they are transformed through events and movements, and that they are constantly negotiated. By addressing the complexities of these questions over time and space, this work provides a model for future endeavors that seek to embed dynamics of gender and sexuality in a broad field of theoretical import.

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This is an enormously informative collection which will offer much to scholars and students in Pasifika studies, anthropology and sociology, while also offering a few new disciplinary approaches such as legal studies or media studies that call for future development. . . . More fieldwork in Micronesia and Melanesia and a greater attention to the role that tourism plays in producing and enacting queer Pasifika identities are prompted by this invaluable collection. It contributes a canonical collection of case studies and a provocative call to expand them. It is an essential addition to your library.-- "Journal of New Zealand and Pacific Studies"

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As academic, social, and cultural interest in third-gender, transgender, gay, lesbian, genderqueer, etc., identities increases and shifts from pathologizing to understanding, it is works like this book that help that process. It is an important contribution to exploring the historical and cultural importance of these people in cultures that have too long been merely, "the exotic other." Anyone seeking to increase their knowledge and understanding of third-gender persons in global cultures needs to include this book in their research and bibliographies.

This edited book is a very valuable addition to the academic work published related to the Pacific and sexuality.

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