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## Review of *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture* edited by Cheryl Suzack, Shari M. Huhndorf, Jeanne Perreault, and Jean Barman

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Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture. Edited by Cheryl Suzack, Shari M. Huhndorf, Jeanne Perreault, and Jean Barman. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010. x + 333 pp. Photographs, notes, index. C\$85.00 cloth, C\$34.95 paper.

The editors of this volume recognize politics, activism, and culture as three areas where Indigenous women come together across place and time in order to counter colonial policies

that have diminished their power, status, and material circumstances in mainstream society as well as in their own communities. The essays included in *Indigenous Women and Feminism* explore these three areas through the work of Indigenous women living in the Great Plains regions of Canada and the United States.

The essays in part 1, "Politics," point to leadership as an imperative component of Indigenous feminism. Their authors examine the politics of leadership from a cultural perspective through personal experience to uncover the legal and ethical frameworks that have transformed the lives of Indigenous women, including the leadership styles of two creative historical figures, Nancy Ward and Laura Cornelius Kellogg.

Part 2, "Activism," includes essays that explore in different geographical and historical contexts specific activities identified as activist. They identify and examine multiple sites of activism, from Indigenous women employed in dance halls during the era of the gold rush, to coalitional partnerships formed with African American women to end racism, to legal battles fought in Canadian courts to maintain the power to self-identify. The final essay goes beyond this hemisphere and explores Indigenous Ainu women fighting to eradicate ethnic as well as gender discrimination in Japan and in international organizations such as the United Nations.

Part 3, "Culture," links Indigenous women's cultural productions with feminist theory and practice. Three essays identify memory as political in the theatrical and literary productions of Indigenous women. Their cultural work unsettles national origin stories and explains the multiple types of violence Indigenous women face, including sexual and institutional violence. The three final essays explore through art, performance art, and documentary the trauma associated with violence and representation.

With the variety of topics included in this collection, the editors intend to demonstrate the scope of Indigenous feminist inquiry. While a welcome addition to the growing body

of Indigenous feminist scholarship, the collection does not specifically define Indigenous feminism or show how it might differ from or grow out of mainstream feminism. The scope of work in Indigenous feminism definitely opens up multiple areas of inquiry, but scholars in the field have yet to create a theoretical framework designed to guide research in the area.

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