

# Tribal Epistemologies

Essays in the Philosophy of Anthropology

Edited by Helmut Wautischer, Sonoma State University, USA

Avebury Series in Philosophy



April 1998

219 x 153 mm

258 pages

Hardback

978-1-84014-128-3

\$130.00

Includes 10 b&w illustrations and 15 figures

---

This collection of ten essays transforms our understanding of both the role of philosophical anthropology in modern world philosophy and the origins of tribal knowledge in their relation to contemporary assessments of cognition and consciousness. Ethnographic data from geographically distant cultures - such as the Maori of New Zealand, the Fore of New Guinea, the Sea Nomads of the Andaman, the Cowlitz of North America, the Maya, Australian Aborigines, Siberian Shamans - are carefully crafted toward an empirical basis for discussing a variety of phenomena traditionally labelled in Western thought as transcendent or metaphysical. This anthology is a valuable source of information relevant for any theories of knowledge and a solid challenge for reductionist models of consciousness. The essays enhance our recognition and appreciation of fundamental similarities as well as differences in world views and cultural perspectives related to knowledge claims.

This anthology illustrates unplumbed depths of human consciousness, reveals experiential understandings beyond linguistic thought, and stands aside from the view that behavior and intelligence can be understood by deterministic principles. This volume of essays, which has been a long time coming, should be read with stereoscopic vision - one lens focusing on the rich ethnographic material of the folk societies, the other focusing on the wider awareness of how we come to know what we know.

Contributors include: Hoyt L. Edge, Roberte N. Hamayon, Åke Hultkrantz, Michael Ripinsky-Naxon, R. Mere Roberts, Nina Rosenstand, Rudolph C. Rýser, E Richard Sorenson, Robert M. Torrance, Helmut Wautischer, Peter Wills. Foreword by Douglass Price-Williams.

---

## Contents

Introduction: Pathways to knowledge. Methodological Conundrums: Observations on "self" and "knowing" ; Individuality in a relational culture: a comparative study. Ethnographic Assessment of Knowledge: Understanding Maori epistemology: a scientific perspective; Preconquest consciousness. Shamanistic Mediation of Meaning: Shamanistic knowledge and cosmology; The meaning of ecstasy in Shamanism; "Ecstasy" or the west-dreamt Siberian Shaman; Rejoinder. Converging Knowledge in Cultural Diversity: Myths and morals: images of conduct, character and personhood in the native American tradition; Some "Shamanistic" affinities of Western culture: "donner un sens plus pur aux mots de la tribu." Index.

---

[www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781840141283](http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781840141283)

# ASHGATE

To order this book please visit [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com), or email [orders@ashgate.com](mailto:orders@ashgate.com)  
A 10% discount applies to orders placed through [www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)