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QUEER INDIGENOUS CINEMAS

SOVEREIGN GENDERS FROM SEVEN DIRECTIONS

GABRIEL S. ESTRADA

Exploring the intersection of Indigenous media and gender

The seven Indigenous directions—east, south, west, north, up, down, and center—provide a map of understanding gender in media history.

In *Queer Indigenous Cinemas*, scholar Gabriel S. Estrada offers an analysis of queer Indigenous media from the Americas, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. This groundbreaking work uses Indigenous directional space and sovereign mapping methods to uncover the emotional, spiritual, and cultural dimensions of queer Indigenous lives. The book's seven chapters—each one of the directions—look closely at media such as cinema and streaming videos that draw on Indigenous concepts from diverse nations such as Diné, Caxcan, Kanaka Maoli, and Nehiyawak. Estrada discusses how the cinema brings into focus the ways that many Indigenous genders do not conform with the male/female binary, genders and sexualities that may or may not overlap with contemporary constructions of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and two-spirit (LGBTQI2+) identities.

Highlighting the struggles and resistances of two-spirit peoples, Estrada's analysis engages with films that represent the diverse and sovereign identities of queer Indigenous peoples. Estrada provides a framework for understanding how queer Indigenous media producers confront colonial trauma and reclaim space for the spiritual and bodily sovereignty of LGBTQI2+ peoples.

GABRIEL S. ESTRADA is a Caxcan/Xicanx professor in religious studies at California State University Long Beach, where ze teaches queer spirituality, Indigenous graduate classes, and Nahuatl literature.

“An outstanding accomplishment for its analysis and its ability to look at Indigenous cinematic formation across time and geographies.”

—Ellie D. Hernández, author of *Postnationalism in Chicana/o Literature and Culture*

“Queer Indigenous Cinemas makes an important contribution to both queer and film studies.”

—Lisa Tatonetti, co-editor of *Written by the Body: Gender Expansiveness and Indigenous Non-Cis Masculinities*

