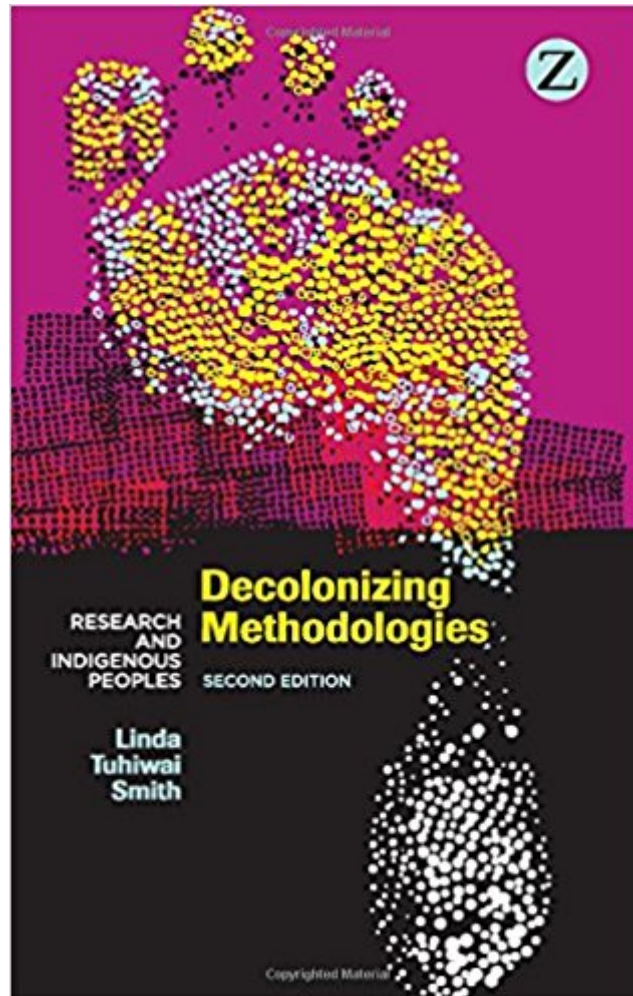




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# Decolonizing Methodologies: Research And Indigenous Peoples



## Synopsis

To the colonized, the term 'research' is conflated with European colonialism; the ways in which academic research has been implicated in the throes of imperialism remains a painful memory. This essential volume explores intersections of imperialism and research - specifically, the ways in which imperialism is embedded in disciplines of knowledge and tradition as 'regimes of truth.' Concepts such as 'discovery' and 'claiming' are discussed and an argument presented that the decolonization of research methods will help to reclaim control over indigenous ways of knowing and being. Now in its eagerly awaited second edition, this bestselling book has been substantially revised, with new case-studies and examples and important additions on new indigenous literature, the role of research in indigenous struggles for social justice, which brings this essential volume urgently up-to-date.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is a counter-story to Western ideas about the benefits of the pursuit of knowledge. Looking through the eyes of the colonized, cautionary tales are told from an indigenous perspective, tales designed not just to voice the voiceless but to prevent the dying - of people, of culture, of ecosystems. The book is particularly strong in situating the development of counter-practices of research within both Western critiques of Western knowledge and global indigenous movements. Informed by critical and feminist evaluations of positivism, Tuhiwai Smith urges researching back and disrupting the rules of the research game toward practices that are more respectful, ethical,

sympathetic and useful vs racist practices and attitudes, ethnocentric assumptions and exploitative research. Using Kaupapa Maori, a fledgling approach toward culturally appropriate research protocols and methodologies, the book is designed primarily to develop indigenous peoples as researchers. In short, Tuhiwai Smith begins to articulate research practices that arise out of the specificities of epistemology and methodology rooted in survival struggles, a kind of research that is something other than a dirty word to those on the suffering side of history." - Patti Lather, Professor Of Educational Policy and Leadership, Ohio State University and author of *Getting Smart: Feminist Research and Pedagogy With/In The Postmodern* (Routledge, 1991) and *Troubling The Angels: Women Living With HIV/AIDS*, with Chris Smithies (Westview, 1997)"Finally, a book for researchers working in indigenous context. Finally, a book especially for indigenous researchers. Linda Smith goes far beyond decolonizing research methodology. Our contextual histories, politics, and cultural considerations are respectfully interwoven together. Our distinctive-ness remains distinct, but there are important places where our issues and methodologies intersect. Stories of research experiences, examples of projects, critical examination, and mindful reflection are woven together to make meaningful and practical designs related to indigenous issues and research." - Jo-Ann Archibald, StÃ :lo Nation and Director of the First Nations House of Learning at the University of British Columbia"A book like this is long overdue. It will be most useful for both indigenous and non-indigenous researchers in educational and non-educational institutions. It will empower indigenous students to undertake research which uses methods that are culturally sensitive and appropriate instead of those which they have learned about in Research Methods courses in universities which assume that research and research methods are culture-free and that researchers occupy some kind of moral high ground from which they can observe their subjects and make judgements about them." - Konai Thaman, Professor of Pacific Education and Culture, and UNESCO Chair of Education, University of the South Pacific"Linda Tuhiwai Smith is the leading theorist on decolonization of Maori in New Zealand. This book opts for a dynamic interpretation of power relations of domination, struggle and emancipation. She uses a dual framework - the whakapapa of Maori knowledge and European epistemology - to interpret and capture the world of reality for a moment in time. Thus the search for truth in complex human relations is a never-ending quest." - Ranginui Walker, formerly Professor of Maori Studies Department and Pro-vice Chancellor, University of Auckland"We have needed this book. Academic research facilitates diverse forms of economic and cultural imperialism by shaping and legitimating policies which entrench existing unjust power relations. Linda Tuhiwai Smith's powerful critique of dominant research methodologies is eloquent, informed and timely. Her distinctive proposals for an indigenous research agenda are

especially valuable. Decolonization, she reminds us, cannot be limited to deconstructing the dominant story and revealing underlying texts, for none of that helps people improve their current conditions or prevents them from dying. This careful articulation of a range of research methodologies is vital, welcome and full of promise." - Laurie Anne Whitt, Professor of Philosophy, Michigan Technological University

"A brilliant, evocative and timely book about an issue that serves to both define and create indigenous realities. In recent years, indigenous people, often led by the emerging culturally affirmed and positioned indigenous scholars, have intensified the struggle to break free from the chains of colonialism and its oppressive legacy. In writing this book, Linda Tuhiwai Smith makes a powerful and impassioned contribution to this struggle. No budding researcher should be allowed to leave the academy without reading this book and no teacher should teach without it at their side." - Bob Morgan, Director, Jumbunna Caisar, Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, University of Technology, Sydney

Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Ngati Awa and Ngati Porou) is a Professor of Education and Māori Development and Pro Vice Chancellor Māori at the University of Waikato in Hamilton New Zealand.

The important message contained in this book has not dated since it was first published. While oriented towards a Māori cultural context, the book is of relevance to those wanting to investigate the topic of indigenous methodologies in pretty well any cultural context. The information in the book is well organised, easily accessible and engaging. The authors writing style is easy to follow, purposeful, confronting and at times delightfully insightful. As an academic and researcher of many years it takes a well written book and thoughtful organisation of ideas to get me past a chapter. Yet I found it difficult to put this book down and after reading it cover to cover, I would read it again and use it as a research aid. Finally, the contents of this book should not be considered relevant to indigenous readers only. I would recommend this book to all citizens and especially those working in government administration, planning, research, education economic and or policy contexts.

This book is amazing! As non american woman trying to figure out how to organise my ideas for research, it has helped a lot! Mostly to understand my own background and think and respect cultures when writing. This is by far my best tool to think about Cultural Studies.

A much needed reference for indigenous peoples across the planet. Affirms are need to write our

own histories without the need to get permission from those of colonizing mentalities. Well written, provocative, courageous and freeing!!!

Brilliantly written by a Maori academic and educator who has been around social research for a long time. Congratulations on what was a thought-provoking, well set out, practical, useful and deeply considered book. Seriously amazing! No doubt a fantastic resource for Maori and Aboriginal researchers. Will be recommending to all non-Indigenous researchers as compulsory reading because this challenges every deeply held, colonial belief we have about ourselves and our research. Thank you Professor Tuhiwai Smith.

This is a wordy, academic book. The content is very important and raised some good points, however it was very hard for me to follow. If I wouldn't have had to read it for school, I would definitely not have gotten past page 1.

This book is the ultimate guide and sets the standard for ethical research methods. If one is confused as to which of the now many decolonizing methods books that are now out there today to choose (the majority of which are also WONDERFUL), this is a great one to start with. Relevant in 1998 and relevant now (the fact that its been updated and revised = icing!) I met the author, and not surprisingly, she is a pistol and a great person. Read this one!

Applicable to most parts of the world.

This book had me think about what Decolonizing even meant. Why should we think about decolonizing methodologies? I ended up enjoying and learning more from this book than any others in my methodology course I am taking now. It is written in easy to understand English without too much academic gobbledygook. I would like to hear Linda speak sometime. I do feel she has much to give all of us. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand more about how colonizing has effected our academic world.

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