

## A Cautious Silence

### The politics of Australian anthropology

Geoffrey Gray

*I expect that this book will generate considerable debate...I hope the book will round out those opinions and add new interpretations...Let the stories be told.*

**Professor Diane Bell**

This is the first exploration of modern Australian social anthropology to examine the forces that helped shaped its formation. Geoffrey Gray reveals the struggle to establish and consolidate anthropology as an academic discipline in Australia. He argues that anthropologists had to demonstrate that their discipline was the predominant interpreter of Indigenous life, leading to them being called on to assist government in the control, development and advancement of Australia's Indigenous peoples.

Gray aims to help us understand the present organisational structures and their social and political contexts, to assist in the formulation of anthropology's future role in Australia, and to consider anthropology's importance as a past definer of Indigenous people.

Gray's work complements and adds to earlier publications like Wolfe's *Settler Colonialism and the Transformation of Anthropology*, McGregor's *Imagined Destinies* and Anderson's *Cultivating Whiteness*.

Geoffrey Gray is Research Fellow at AIATSIS, and Honorary Research Assistant in the History School, Monash University. His has published widely on topics including anthropology, academic freedom, race and racism, colonialism, citizenship and native title.

#### SELLING POINTS

- First comprehensive history of Australian anthropology.
- Will set a cat among the pigeons within anthropology and should spark debate. Anthropologists like Prof Di Bell are supportive of the work; others (some if them established figures) don't like what Gray has to say.
- Challenges anthropologists to reconsider the origins of the discipline.
- Provides the social and political context within which anthropologists can consider the future of their discipline.
- Detailed political history of a time of great social change in Australia.



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- Aboriginal Studies

#### BIC CATEGORIES

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