

Savaging the Disciplines Disciplining the Savages

Martin Nakata

DESCRIPTION

Disciplining the Savages is not about the bad deeds of evil men. Rather, it's an exploration of the way knowledge is produced within academic disciplines and then reproduced as public knowledge and enacted through the actions of governments.

Nakata, a Torres Strait Islander academic, casts a critical gaze on the 1890s Cambridge Expedition researchers to the Torres Strait. He meticulously analyses the linguistic, psychological, anthropological and other scientific projects of the expedition, and offers an astute critique of their research methods and interpretations.

Nakata's is the first such analysis from a Torres Strait Islander position and he draws eloquently from his own struggle to break free from imposed definitions. In doing so, he explores the often uneasy tension between being who you are and who you have been told you are.

Nakata, with other contemporaries, wants to forsake the old paradigms. Rather, he seeks an alternate theoretical standpoint; one which explores the complex interface between Indigenous people, colonial regimes and the academic disciplines. A space where Islander knowledge is valued.

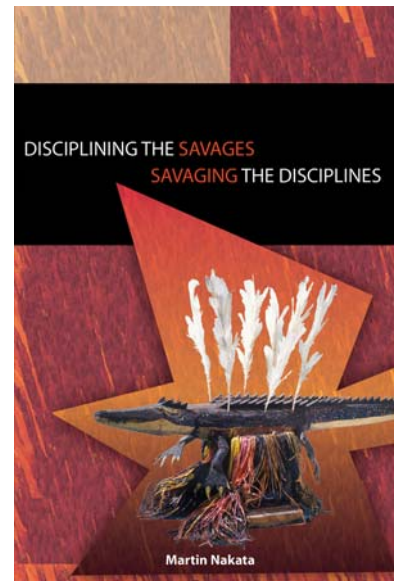
Informed by critical theory, *Disciplining the Savages* makes a unique contribution in this ongoing effort and dialogue between scholars.

AUTHOR

Professor Martin Nakata is the Director of Jumbunna House of Learning at Sydney's University of Technology in Sydney and the Chair of Australian Indigenous Education.

SELLING POINTS

- Martin Nakata is the first Torres Strait Islander awarded a PhD.
- He is the first Islander to 'write back to the centre' (rebellion against the academy by an Indigenous academic).
- Strong theoretical underpinning; similar to works on post-colonial studies, feminism, etc.
- Engages with the 'exotica' of the Torres Strait.



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