



Storytracking: Texts, Stories, and Histories in Central Australia

By Sam D. Gill

Oxford University Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 304 pages. Dimensions: 9.3in. x 6.4in. x 0.9in. This innovative work takes a narrative technique (known as storytracking) practiced by Australian aboriginal peoples and applies it to the academic study of their culture. Gill's purpose is to get as close as possible to the perceptions and beliefs of these indigenous peoples by stripping away the layers of European interpretation and construction. His technique involves comparing the versions of aboriginal texts presented in academic reports with the text versions as they appear in each report's cited sources. The comparison helps reveal the extent to which the text is transformed through its presentation. Gill follows the chain of citations along, uncovering the story, or as he calls it the storytrack, that interconnects scholar with scholar-independent subject. The storytrack reveals the various academic operations--translations, editing, conflation, interpretation--that serve to build a bridge connecting subject and scholarly report. Gill begins by examining Mircea Eliade's influential analysis of an Australian myth, Numbakulla and the Sacred Pole. He goes back to the field notes of the anthropologists who originally collected the story and by following the trail of publications, revisions, and retellings of this tale is able to show...



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