

DISPOSSESSION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

LEONARD HASTINGS SCHOFF MEMORIAL LECTURES

*University Seminars*

Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial Lectures

The University Seminars at Columbia University sponsor an annual series of lectures, with the support of the Leonard Hastings Schoff and Suzanne Levick Schoff Memorial Fund. A member of the Columbia faculty is invited to deliver before a general audience three lectures on a topic of his or her choosing. Columbia University Press publishes the lectures.

- Charles Larmore, *The Romantic Legacy* 1996  
Saskia Sassen, *Losing Control? Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization* 1996  
David Cannadine, *The Rise and Fall of Class in Britain* 1999  
Ira Katznelson, *Desolation and Enlightenment: Political Knowledge After Total War, Totalitarianism, and the Holocaust* 2003  
Lisa Anderson, *Pursuing Truth, Exercising Power: Social Science and Public Policy in the Twenty-First Century* 2003  
Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World* 2004  
David Rosand, *The Invention of Painting in America* 2004  
George Rupp, *Globalization Challenged: Conviction, Conflict, Community* 2006  
Lesley A. Sharp, *Bodies, Commodities, and Technologies: Death, Mourning, and Scientific Desire in the Realm of Human Organ Transfer* 2007  
Robert W. Hanning, *Serious Play: Desire and Authority in the Poetry of Ovid, Chaucer, and Ariosto* 2010  
Boris Gasparov, *Beyond Pure Reason: Ferdinand de Saussure's Philosophy of Language and Its Early Romantic Antecedents* 2012  
Douglas A. Chalmers, *Reforming Democracies: Six Facts About Politics That Demand a New Agenda* 2013  
Philip Kitcher, *Deaths in Venice: The Cases of Gustav von Aschenbach* 2013  
Robert L. Belknap, *Plots* 2016  
Paige West, *Dispossession and the Environment: Rhetoric and Inequality in Papua New Guinea* 2016

DISPOSSESSION AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT

*Rhetoric and Inequality in Papua New Guinea*

Paige West

Columbia University Press  
*Publishers Since 1893*  
New York Chichester, West Sussex

cup.columbia.edu  
Copyright © 2016 Columbia University Press  
All rights reserved

An earlier version of chapter 1 was published as “‘Such A Site for Play, This Edge’: Surfing, Tourism and Modernist Fantasy in Papua New Guinea” in *Global Sport in the Pacific*, ed. Fa'anofa Lisaclaire Uperesa and Tom Mountjoy. Special issue of *The Contemporary Pacific* 26, no. 2 (2014). Reprinted with permission of the University of Hawaii.

“The Blackest Crow” (trad.) as performed by Laurie Lewis © 2002 Spruce and Maple Music, from the album *Birdsong*.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: West, Paige, 1969- author.

Title: Dispossession and the environment : rhetoric and inequality in Papua New Guinea / Paige West.

Description: New York : Columbia University Press, [2016] | Series: Leonard Hastings Schoff lectures | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016008164 | ISBN 9780231178785 (cloth : acid-free paper) | ISBN 9780231178792 (pbk. : acid-free paper) | ISBN 9780231541923 (e-book)

Subjects: LCSH: Ethnology—Papua New Guinea. | Indigenous peoples—Ecology—Papua New Guinea. | Indigenous peoples—Papua New Guinea—Social conditions. | Papua New Guinea—Social conditions. | Papua New Guinea—Environmental conditions.

Classification: LCC DU740.42 .W643 2016 | DDC 305.8009953—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016008164>



Columbia University Press books are printed on permanent and durable acid-free paper.

Printed in the United States of America

c 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

p 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Cover design: Rebecca Lown

Cover image: Photograph by J.C. Salyer

*For Liam Tiso Irunei, Solomon Aini, Vincentia Aini,  
Jasmine Aini, and Jeremiah Aini, who all call me aunty  
and in doing so make me want to make a better world.*

