



Special Issue Foreword

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This special issue of the Journal of Indigenous Social Development emerged from an Editorial Board discussion on the current state and future of Indigeneity. As a collective, we have found our monthly board meetings via zoom – which bring together peoples of North America, the Pacific, Asia, and Africa – have become a generative and reflective space for sharing stories and perspectives, finding commonality in plight and vision, virtual community-building, and a place of refuge in a world gone awry. Despite colonial regimes that have sought, and still seek, to control our minds, bodies, and spirits, Indigenous peoples have ways of being that exist in spite of colonialism, but we are not only a culture that responds to colonialism.

To be Indigenous is to be extraordinary. It is to see the world through a lens layered in ancestral knowledge and union, trauma and resilience. Surviving onslaught gives uncommon perspectives, turning suffering into insight and compassion, interrelationship into ecological discernment, and temporal awareness into a sense of urgency and responsibility. So many are applying spiritual intelligence to effectively transform communities and ultimately the course of the world. At the root of meaning and cause is an obligation to keeping alive the humanity of our ancestors - a forsaken humanity buried beneath the chaos and confusion brought forth by post-modernism that followed global colonization. Through the swirl, we remain guided by their whispering wisdom.

Emerging from the throws of dispossession, marginalization, and lineal disruption is an inimitable Indigenous strategy. A new generation is fusing tradition and innovation, resisting and reclaiming, infiltrating settler systems, positioning and subverting, and shrewdly colonizing the colonizer. Victims turned victor will lead the world in a different way. Those who honor ancestors and beloved community lead not by revenge but a vengeance to restore and rise above a deplorable past. They become not their tormentors but distill trauma into empathy and will to fulfill humanity's vast potential.

The Editorial Board is consumed and fueled by the breath of Native intelligence, passion to repossess epistemology and narrative, bold and original initiatives to effect change, and authentic expressions of aloha.

We are honored to be a conduit for the dissemination of localized wisdom to a broader audience and play a part in this quiet, yet nonetheless pervasive, revolution.