

NATIVE STUDIES
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**AN OVERVIEW OF RECENT BOOKS AND GRADUATE
THESES IN CANADIAN NATIVE STUDIES**

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In previous issues of this journal I have been analyzing Native Studies in terms of communications media: languages spoken, university and college curricula, college majors of Indians, audio-visuals, journals, and graduate theses (Price, 1982, 1983, 1984). The current project began by completing a data base of 766 books and technical monographs published in Canada with a predominant Native Studies content in the decade of 1975 through 1984.

PUBLISHERS: THE NEW WESTERN SHIFT

The first finding is that Native Studies publication in Canada has been in a very healthy state in the last decade, in terms of producing a large number and wide variety of books, monographs, and theses. A count of "books in pntt" in Native Studies in the U.S. and Canada in 1981 and 1984 shows the number decreased about 10% in those three years in the U.S., but remained fairly constant in Canada (Butler, 1981, 1984; Bowker, 1981, 1984). In the early 1960's Canada was producing only about a dozen Native Studies books, monographs, and theses per year and now the rate is up to about 100 per year, nearly a ten fold increase in twenty years.

The major publisher is the National Museums of Canada, in the series for the Archaeological Survey and the Canadian Ethnology Service. In recent years the provincial governments, particularly in the western provinces, have become active in the field through archaeological surveys and museums. Also we see the significant entry of Native-run associations, councils, and centres in publishing.

There is a down side to all this production. There is so much competition that it is very difficult for any publisher to make money on new college texts in

TABLE 1: Publishers

Federal Museums and Agencies:	218	(28%)
Provincial and Municipal Museums and Agencies:	82	(11%)
Native Associations and Councils:	49	(6%)
Professional Associations and Institutes:	14	(2%)
University Presses and Departments:	102	(13%)
Commercial Publishers:	294	(58%)
Unknown:	7	(1%)

Native Studies. Thus, for example, the very large number of 89 commercial publishers have been involved, but still relatively few of the books and monographs have come from Canada's major commercial text publishers based in Metropolitan Toronto, only 11% of the total. A few western publishers, such as Douglas & McIntyre, Hancock House, and Hurtig, however, have been doing well. Many small publishing houses in British Columbia and the prairie provinces have also become collectively very important, so there is a definite western shift in Native Studies publishing, to about one half of the non-federal publications. Similarly, I found in my project last year that 53% of the graduate theses had been produced in the four western provinces. Table No. 1 details the publishers of the 766 books and monographs.

SUB-DISCIPLINES

In terms of total production, archaeology is the most productive sub-discipline; followed by history-ethnohistory; cultural anthropology; literature; art-dance-music; and then politics-law. Topics with relatively little production are economics-economic anthropology, religion-philosophy; sociology-social work, and medicine-psychology. Generally there is a similar level of production in a sub-discipline between theses and book-monographs, except for a significantly greater production of books in literature and politics-law and of theses in medicine-psychology and religion-philosophy. Table 2 presents the distribution of these works by sub-disciplines.

The general Native Studies journals, such as *The Indian Historian*, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, and *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies* have had some similarities to the distribution in the sub-disciplinary pattern of articles they have published (Price, 1982a). They exclude technical articles in archaeology, linguistics, and physical anthropology, but emphasize history, cultural anthropology, literature, and politics and they have little, even at a non-technical level on economics, sociology-social work, and medicine-psychology.

TABLE 2: Sub-Disciplines

	Sample Sizes	Books & Monographs 768	Graduate Theses 429	Totals 1,197
1.	Archaeology	22.0%	28.4%	24%
2.	History, Ethnohistory	14.6%	10.7%	13%
5.	Cultural Anthropology	11.7%	11.9%	12%
4.	Literature	12.2%	3.0%	9%
5.	Art, Dance & Music	8.9%	5.8%	8%
6.	Politics, Law	10.2%	4.2%	8%
7.	Education, School Texts	6.1%	6.8%	6%
8.	Linguistics	5.1%	6.5%	6%
9.	Physical Anthropology	2.5%	6.3%	4%
10.	Economics, Econ. Anthro.	2.2%	3.3%	3%
11.	Religion, Philosophy	1.2%	6.3%	3%
12.	Sociology, Social Work	2.9%	4.2%	3%
13.	Medicine, Psychology	0.5%	2.6%	1%
	Totals	100.1%	100.0%	100%

NATIONALISM: U.S. AND CANADA IGNORE EACH OTHER

The phenomenon of nationalism seems to be widespread in Native Studies, particularly in that U.S. and Canadian scholars tend to ignore each other's work and to concentrate just on the Native issues in their own country. Thus it is common to have a U.S. text on North American prehistory showing a map of significant archaeological sites in North America in which the Canadian part is almost blank. It seems to say that Canada does not really have any significant prehistory. It reminds me of the weather report on U.S. television stations which shows the weather map stopping at the international border, as if Canada did not have any weather.

It is uncommon for U.S. and Canadian journals of Native Studies to review books that came out in the opposite country. Only about 5% of the reviews are on Canadian books in *The American Indian Culture and Research Journal* and *The American Indian Quarterly* and similarly only 5% of the reviews are on U.S. books in *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies*. In a comparison of graduate theses, I found that 95% of those done in the U.S. were on U.S. Natives and 97% of those done in Canada were on Canadian subjects. In the current compilation of Canadian books and monographs I found that 98.5% of those with an areal orientation were on Canadian subjects.

TABLE 3: Publications and Populations

	Books, Monographs and Theses	Population Proportions
Eskimoan	26.8%	5.4%
Algonquian	25.1%	45.9%
Metis	11.1%	23.5%
Iroquoian	10.5%	6.0%
Salishan	7.7%	5.7%
Athapaskan	7.1%	6.5%
Wakashan	4.1%	2.3%
Haida	1.7%	0.4%
Siouan	1.7%	1.9%
Tsimshian	1.7%	2.2%
Beothuk	1.3%	0.0%
Tlingit	1.1%	0.1%
Kootenayan	0.2%	0.1%
Totals	100.1%	100.0%

POOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

In the analysis of theses I found that few individuals ever did both an M.A. and a Ph.D. thesis in Native Studies, the only exception being in the sub-discipline of archaeology. This pattern of poor career development continues on into the publication of books as well. Thus, for example, only 16% of those who did an M.A. or Ph.D. thesis in Canadian Native Studies in the 1972 through 1983 period went on to publish a book or monograph in the 1975 through 1984 period. Again, the major exception was archaeology, where 36% later did a book or monograph.

THE CORRELATION BETWEEN AMOUNT OF PRODUCTION AND THE CURRENT POPULATION OF NATIVE STUDIES

Generally the amount of media materials produced on a Native society, whether they are Native periodicals, university courses, audio-visuals, theses, or books, is roughly correlated with the current population size of that society. The major exceptions to this rule have been the overproduction of materials on the various Eskimoan societies (Southern Yuit, Central Yuit, and Inuit) and the Navajo, and the underproduction of materials on the Metis. Table 3 shows the proportion of works (books, monographs, and theses where a specific Native Canadian society was indicated in the title - 467 titles) in relation to cultural

TABLE 4: Female Authorship By Sub-Discipline

1.	Art, Dance & Music	49%
2.	Medicine, Psychology	47%
3.	Education	40%
4.	Literature	40%
5.	Sociology, Social Work	38%
6.	Physical Anthropology	36%
7.	Religion, Philosophy	34%
8.	Cultural Anthropology	29%
9.	Economics, Econ. Anthro.	23%
10.	Linguistics	23%
11.	History, Ethnohistory	20%
12.	Archaeology	16%
13.	Politics, Law	14%

group populations (Indian and Inuit Affairs, 1980).

RELATIVELY FEW WOMEN AS AUTHORS

It is difficult to get women students to specialize in Native Studies and when they do they tend to stay with the sub-disciplines that have been traditionally associated with women. Thus women did only 26% of the books and monographs and 31% of the theses, 28% of the total sample (329:1,200 authors - where the sex of the author is known). Table 4 shows female authorship by sub-discipline.

COMMENTARY

The past decade has seen the production of a large number and a wide variety of books and theses in Native Studies in Canada. The sample used here includes 1,197 items. About half of this production was in the four western provinces. Commercial publishers accounted for only 38% of the books and monographs, presumably because of the heavy competition in the field from government agencies, museums, and universities, which do not have to make a profit on their sales. Since government supported production undercuts the commercial production of general Native Studies texts, we need to develop new publication strategies.

The sub-disciplines with low levels of production have been economics-economic anthropology, religion-philosophy, sociology-social work, and medicine-psychology. Of course we need more books and theses in these fields, but even in areas of high production there is generally very little publication of

works that synthesize the field, again because governments tend not to support this type of publication with the idea that commercial publishers will do it. Thus, for example, we need both a general prehistory of Canada and more comprehensive summaries of Canadian Indian history than what we have now. To offset the narrow nationalism that is pervasive in Native Studies we need more books such as the one Noel Dyck (1984) edited on comparisons of fourth world politics.

In advising graduate students about careers in Native Studies, we should emphasize (1) women students more, (2) the need for people to make long term career commitments, and (3) the need for broadly comparative studies. In advising students on what Native societies they would find relatively uncrowded with other scholars, I would direct them away from Eskimoan studies (the subject of 125 books, monographs, and theses in this sample) and toward the following 34 Native societies in Canada that were the subject of only 0, 1, or 2 specific works in the sample.

Abenaki	Kootenay	Sarcee
Cayuga	Kutchin	Seechew
Chilcotin	Loucheaux	Sekani
Comox	Lillooet	Seneca
Cowichan	Nahani	Shuswap
Dakota	Niska	Slave
Delaware	Okanagan	Songish
Dogrib	Oneida	Squamish
Gitskan	Onondaga	Tahhan
Haisla	Potawatomi	Tuscarora
Hare	Puntlatch	Yellowknife
Heiltsuk		

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