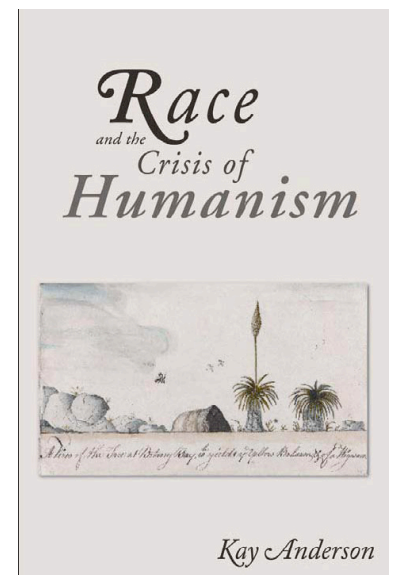


Race and the Crisis of Humanism

By Kay Anderson

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Kay Anderson's provocative account explores the impact of colonial encounters in Australia on international knowledge about human difference in the 19th century. It emphasises the singular challenge that Australian colonial encounters aroused in Enlightenment notions of human unity and development. Far from confirming European views of 'savage' others, nature/native encounters precipitated a crisis in existing ideas - all the more contentious to today - of what it meant to be human. As colonial consternation grew about their inclination and capacity for improvement, and particularly for cultivation, the Aborigines challenged the basis on which the unity of humankind had been assumed. The intractable Aborigine came to supply seemingly irrefutable evidence for an innate racial difference; and the strongest support for those who maintained the intrinsic inferiority of the 'dark-skinned' races more generally. *Race and the Crisis of Humanism* is an original, multidisciplinary synthesis that should be read by all those interested in race and empire, critical race theory, Australian studies, human geography, anthropology, cultural and environmental studies.



About the Author

Kay Anderson is Professor of Cultural Research at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney. She is a leading scholar in the field of cultural geography and is internationally recognized for her contributions to the development of the "cultural turn" in Geography. She is the author of (award-winning) *Vancouver's Chinatown: Racial Discourse in Canada 1875-1980* and co-editor and contributor of the *Handbook of Cultural Geography*. She is an elected Academician of the UK Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences, and an elected Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. In 2007 she received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association of American Geographer's Ethnic Geography Specialty Group.

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