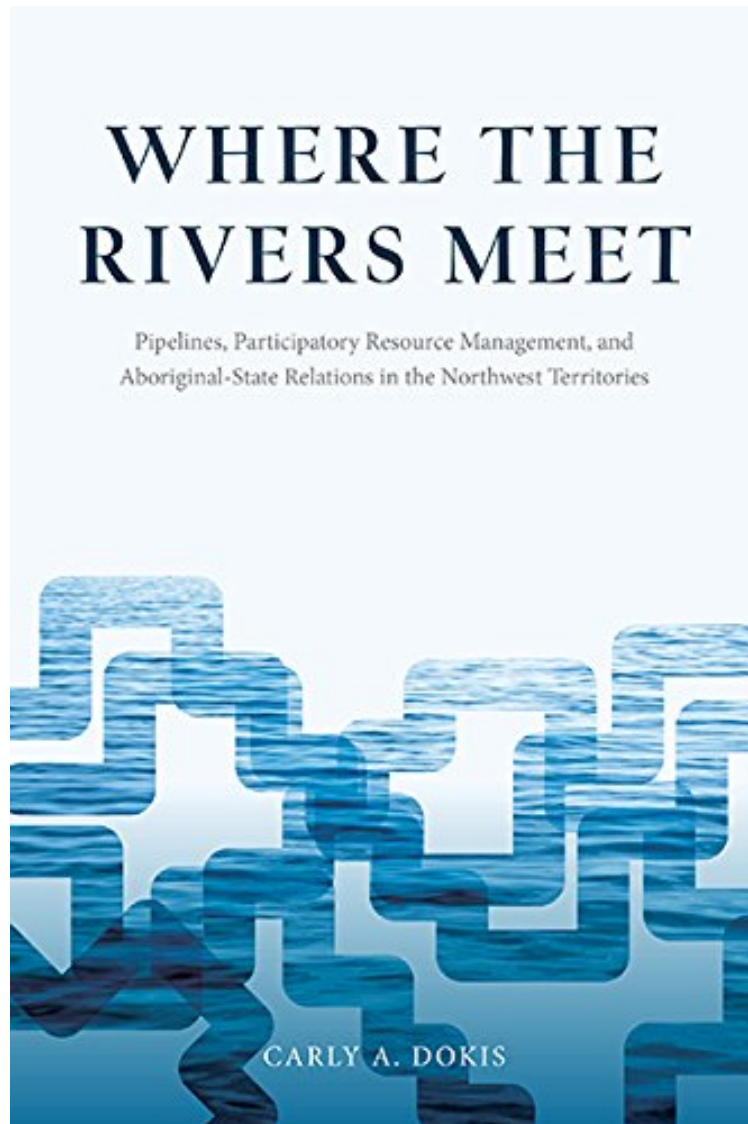


[Free] Where the Rivers Meet: Pipelines, Participatory Resource Management, and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Northwest Territories (The Nature / History / Society Series)

Where the Rivers Meet: Pipelines, Participatory Resource Management, and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Northwest Territories (The Nature / History / Society Series)

Carly A. Dokis

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Carly A. Dokis : Where the Rivers Meet: Pipelines, Participatory Resource Management, and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Northwest Territories (The Nature / History / Society Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where the Rivers Meet: Pipelines, Participatory

Resource Management, and Aboriginal-State Relations in the Northwest Territories (The Nature / History / Society Series):

Oil and gas companies now recognize that industrial projects in the Canadian North can only succeed if Aboriginal communities are involved in decision-making processes. *Where the Rivers Meet* is an ethnographic account of Sahtu Dene involvement in the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Gas Project, a massive pipeline that, if completed, would have unprecedented effects on Aboriginal communities. The book reveals that while there has been some progress in establishing avenues for Dene participation in decision making, the ultimate assessment of such projects remains rooted in non-local beliefs about the nature of the environment, the commodification of land, and the inevitability of a hydrocarbon-based economy.

This book represents a significant contribution to our understanding of barriers to procedural justice in Aboriginal communities, and it offers important lessons for regulators, policy makers, and rights advocates well beyond the Northwest Territories. Senior undergraduate or graduate students interested in anthropology, indigenous studies, or political ecology will find the work accessible and very relevant to the contemporary history of development on aboriginal lands. (Cyrus M. Hester, Arizona State University NICHE 2017-01-11) Oil and gas companies now recognize that industrial projects in the Canadian North can only succeed if Aboriginal communities are involved in the assessment of project impacts. Are Aboriginal concerns appropriately addressed through current consultation and participatory processes? Or is the very act of participation used as a means to legitimize project approvals? *Where the Rivers Meet* is an ethnographic account of Sahtu Dene involvement in the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Gas Project, a massive pipeline that, if completed, would transport gas from the western subarctic to Alberta, and would have unprecedented effects on Aboriginal communities in the North. Carly A. Dokis reveals that while there has been some progress in establishing avenues for Dene participation in decision making, the structure of participatory and consultation processes fails to meet expectations of local people by requiring them to participate in ways that are incommensurable with their experiential knowledge and understandings of the environment. Ultimately, Dokis finds that despite Aboriginal involvement, the evaluation of such projects remains rooted in non-local beliefs about the nature of the environment, the commodification of land, and the inevitability of a hydrocarbon-based economy. "Where the Rivers Meet addresses questions of growing national and international significance: arctic and subarctic gas exploration in an era when Canada has acknowledged the 'duty to consult' Aboriginal communities as a fiduciary obligation. Drawing on ethnographic research in three sub-arctic communities, Carly Dokis artfully documents how this process continually fails to engage northern First Nations in locally meaningful ways." Julie Cruikshank, author of *Do Glaciers Listen? Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters, and Social Imagination* "In this important book, Carly Dokis makes a significant contribution to our understanding of Indigenous-state-corporate relations and the nature of participatory assessment processes in Canada. In particular, her critique of how governments and corporations 'consult' with First Nations in the postland claim era and her analysis of how such consultation processes have evolved and been co-opted in the decades following the Berger Inquiry is a must-read for scholars, policy makers, and proponents of development across Canada and elsewhere." Paul Nadasdy, professor of anthropology, Cornell University "Where the Rivers Meet makes the important point that the effects of oil and gas projects "are not only economic or political or environmental but also profoundly moral matters. . . . As Dokis reminds us, they involve questions about what is valuable and meaningful, consideration for the preferred modes of living of different groups within the country, and thoughtfulness about how persons and environments should be treated." Graeme Wynn, from the foreword About the Author Carly A. Dokis is assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario.