

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910151660703321
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Titolo	Indigenous Networks and Evangelical Frontiers : : Problems With Governance and Ethics in Cases of 'Voluntary Isolation' in Contemporary Amazonia // Marc Brightman, Vanessa Grotti
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Springer Nature, 2017 London : , : Springer Open, , 2017
ISBN	9783319422718 3319422715
Edizione	[First edition, 2017.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XXXVIII, 257 pages 23 illustrations, 7 illustrations in color.)
Disciplina	301
Soggetti	Anthropology Cultural property Culture - Study and teaching Human geography
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Hunter-Gatherers in a Fast Changing World -- Part I: The Historical Legacy -- 1. The Fortunes of Foragers in Colonial and Post-Colonial New Guinea -- 2. When is a Foraging Society? The Loplik in the Tarim Basin -- Part II: Environmental Change -- 3. Trailing Forest Uses Among the Punan Tubu of North Kalimantan, Indonesia -- 4. Bushmeat Crisis, Forestry Reforms and Contemporary Hunting Among Central African Forest Hunters -- 5. Defaunation Through the Eyes of the Tsimane' -- 6. The Death of the Chief of Peccaries: The Apurinã and the Scarcity of Forest Resources in Brazilian Amazonia -- Part III: Changes in Economic, Political and Legal Systems -- 7. Why Pumé Foragers Retain a Hunting and Gathering Way of Life on a Transitional Landscape -- 8. Sharing in a Context of Rural Development. A Study Among a Contemporary Hunter-Gatherer Society in Indonesia -- 9. Hunter-Gatherers and Fishing Rights in Alaska and Siberia: Contemporary Governmentality, Subsistence, and Sustainable Enterprises -- Part IV: Globalization and Cultural Change -- 10.

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Sommario/riassunto

The periodic emergence of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation in Amazonia have given rise to sensational media reports and heated academic debate. In this chapter we describe briefly the historical and contemporary relations between indigenous peoples in and out of isolation in the Guiana Shield region of North-eastern South America and discuss the role of indigenous missionaries in histories of contact. After considering these facts in relation to some of the general debates about isolated peoples and policy, we assess the ethical dimensions of the question of emergence from isolation.

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