

Culture



Rik PINXTEN, Ingrid VON DOOREN, and Frank HARVEY, *The Anthropology of Space: Explorations into the Natural Philosophy and Semantics of the Navajo*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983. 240 pages, US \$32.50 (cloth)

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Volume 6, Number 1, 1986

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1078456ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1078456ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

Canadian Anthropology Society / Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA), formerly/anciennement Canadian Ethnology Society / Société Canadienne d'Ethnologie

ISSN

0229-009X (print)

2563-710X (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Perkins, E. (1986). Review of [Rik PINXTEN, Ingrid VON DOOREN, and Frank HARVEY, *The Anthropology of Space: Explorations into the Natural Philosophy and Semantics of the Navajo*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983. 240 pages, US \$32.50 (cloth)]. *Culture*, 6(1), 82–82.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1078456ar>

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but which also includes some recent Canadian work. It consists of ten articles written by scholars who have themselves been significant contributors to the field; each article is presented in the form of a bibliographic essay on a broadly defined topic which is inclusive in scope and, in some instances, trenchant in comment. Many of the studies reviewed in this volume appear to shift away from parochialism of place, period or discipline towards the more theoretical and comparative approaches which have been encouraged for several years by various centers of Indian Studies, such as the sponsor of this volume itself, which is the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian. Although designed for the specialist, any teacher will find here a veritable market bazaar of enticing and well labelled items from which to choose materials useful for a wide variety of classes.

Rik PINXTEN, Ingrid VON DOOREN, and Frank HARVEY, *The Anthropology of Space: Explorations into the Natural Philosophy and Semantics of the Navajo*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983. 240 pages, US \$32.50 (cloth).

By Ellavina Perkins
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The *Anthropology of Space* is a collection of every conceivable Navajo spatial terminology, and appears to be well documented research work. The Navajo script is commendable with only minor mistakes.

The book is full of valuable data for those who are inclined to research, particularly those researchers in the ethnographic arena. It is designed to serve them as a training manual and a guide to doing similar fieldwork among the Navajo. It is highly technical as shown by the Universal Frame of Reference (UFOR), an apparatus Pinxten devised to collect and research Navajo spatial terminology. UFOR is a maximal set of spatial discriminations that human beings are capable of making, and may be used for ethnographic research in any semantic field.

This book is purely academic and meant for scholars on the caliber of Pinxten, particularly those who are used to the Northwestern University context which seems to be limited to the students of Ossy Werner and the like. To the layman this book

is inaccessible and irrelevant; however, it can still be useful to some Navajo scholars as resource material. It may especially be useful in the holistic approach to teaching mathematics to Navajo students by the few Navajo teachers who are literate in Navajo, since Pinxten has certainly laid out, to a great extent, a plan for how this can be done.

As a whole, I find Pinxten's book an excellent and reliable piece of work on the Navajo language and a tribute to one institutional philosophy: "to promote, nurture and enrich the Navajo culture and language." Ethnographic works such as Pinxten's are needed and deserve such attention as that given by him to spatial semantics, toward the preservation of the Navajo language and to determining how the language is faring in such a defined domain.

The reliability of Pinxten's book is partially attributable to his collaboration with one of the foremost authorities on the Navajo culture and a person who has many years of experience working alongside individuals like Pinxten. I commend him for selecting Mr. Harvey as his consultant.

I especially appreciate Pinxten's reason for supporting the native approach to research and education: "there is today the phenomenon of the totally inappropriate education, leading to misunderstanding and sociocultural and psychological alienation of Navajo children and adults. With its almost complete lack of consideration for the authentic Navajo world view, the school curriculum is scarcely integrated into the native context. The result is that people at some point have to choose between their system of knowledge and the Western alternative. Most people never choose and come to live and think in a 'divided world', partly Navajo and partly Western. Nobody deserves this second rate treatment in a democratic society."

Denys DELÂGE, *Le pays renversé. Amérindiens et européens en Amérique du nord-est 160-1664*. Montréal, Boréal Express, 1985. 424 pages, maps.

By Bruce G. Trigger
McGill University

This is an innovative and important interdisciplinary study. It offers the first comprehensive analysis of the French, Dutch, and English colonization of northeastern North America during the early and middle decades of the seventeenth