

**The Ends of Research: Indigenous and Settler Science after the War in the Woods.** By Tom Özden-Schilling. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2023. 320 pages. \$107.95 cloth; \$28.95 paper; \$34.95 e-book.

Tom Özden-Schilling's *The Ends of Research: Indigenous and Settler Science after the War in the Woods* delves into the intersection of Indigenous knowledge systems and settler scientific practices within British Columbia's forestry sector. Through ethnographic fieldwork and historical analysis, Özden-Schilling investigates how scientific research evolves and adapts following the War in the Woods—a pivotal series of environmental disputes that fundamentally reshaped forest management in the region.

At the core of Özden-Schilling's book is the concept of “ends” in research—both as conclusions and objectives. He argues that the goals and outcomes of research for Indigenous communities often diverge significantly from those of settler colonial institutions. This divergence, he contends, reflects fundamental differences in worldviews and relationships to land and resources, rather than mere methodological or epistemological distinctions. From this perspective, Özden-Schilling challenges readers to reconsider the very purpose and impact of scientific inquiry in contested territories.

Özden-Schilling blends ethnographic fieldwork with rigorous historical analysis, offering readers an immersive experience of forest science through his vivid descriptions of the Date Creek Research Forest. His approach reveals the physical and intellectual demands of scientific practice and its deep connection to the land's complex history. A central argument that emerges early on is the inherently political nature of scientific research in forestry. Özden-Schilling traces the historical context of the War in the Woods to show how the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en First Nations' land claims and blockades challenged not only logging practices but also the very foundations of settler-colonial land management. By situating contemporary scientific practices within the broader context of Indigenous sovereignty and environmental justice, Özden-Schilling demonstrates that scientific knowledge production is never neutral, but always entangled with power dynamics and competing claims to authority.

Özden-Schilling's theoretical framework draws heavily from science and technology studies (STS), particularly in examining how scientific knowledge is produced, circulated, and contested. This perspective enables a critical analysis of the dual role of science as both a tool of colonial power and a potential means of resistance. Drawing on works by Bruno Latour and Sheila Jasanoff, Özden-Schilling provides a solid foundation for understanding the sociopolitical dimensions of scientific practice in a postcolonial context. Moreover, he goes beyond mere application of existing theories by offering fresh insights into how these dynamics play out in the specific context of British Columbia's forests.

A standout feature of *The Ends of Research* is its focus on collaborative forestry research. Özden-Schilling describes how scientists such as Dennis—a senior researcher with the British Columbia Forest Service—navigate the complexities of creating partnerships with Indigenous communities. This focus on collaboration challenges simplistic binaries between Indigenous and Western knowledge systems, presenting a more complex picture of negotiation and mutual learning. Conversations with Indigenous activists such as Darlene Vegh expose the deep ambivalence and skepticism about scientific research's long-term impact on Indigenous communities. These critical perspectives balance more optimistic narratives of scientific collaboration, underscoring the ongoing struggle of decolonizing research practices.

Özden-Schilling's findings have far-reaching implications for current debates within Indigenous studies and environmental history. By focusing on the material practices of forest science, he offers a fresh perspective on how knowledge is produced and contested in postcolonial contexts. This approach enriches current discussions on decolonizing research methods and recognizing Indigenous sovereignty in environmental governance. Özden-Schilling's exploration of "countermapping" practices and "Indigenous futurism" (74) in scientific research is particularly compelling. He describes how Indigenous communities have utilized digital mapping to reassert their territorial boundaries and challenge dominant cartographic narratives. In addition, he highlights how Indigenous researchers and knowledge-keepers are actively developing new methodologies to blend ancestral wisdom with modern scientific understanding, challenging static portrayals of Indigenous knowledge. This dynamic approach to Indigenous scientific practices prompts crucial questions about how scientific expertise shapes public policy and resource management decisions.

Özden-Schilling does not shy away from addressing the tensions and contradictions inherent in collaborative research efforts, acknowledging the internal debates within Indigenous communities about the use of scientific methodologies that are historically associated with colonial oppression. This approach avoids the pitfall of romanticizing Indigenous knowledge or presenting it as monolithic, instead portraying it as diverse, contested, and evolving. Although centered on British Columbia, Özden-Schilling's insights echo broader historiographical debates within Caribbean studies and other postcolonial contexts. His examination of how Indigenous communities navigate the legacies of colonialism through research practices reveals global patterns of Indigenous resistance to settler colonialism. This comparative perspective opens new avenues for understanding the shared challenges and diverse strategies employed by Indigenous peoples worldwide in their fight for sovereignty and environmental stewardship.

In comparison to other works in the field, such as Audra Simpson's *Mohawk Interruptus* (2014) or Shiri Pasternak's *Grounded Authority* (2017), Özden-Schilling's approach stands out for its focus on the material practices of environmental research and management. While these other works emphasize legal and political strategies, Özden-Schilling explores the transformative potential of research itself as a tool for decolonization. This focus on the everyday practices of science offers a unique window into the subtle ways in which power relations are negotiated and contested in the field.

While Özden-Schilling's work is groundbreaking, it is not without its limitations. At times, the dense theoretical discussions may prove challenging for readers unfamiliar with STS literature. In addition, while Özden-Schilling provides a thorough examination of British Columbia's forestry sector, a more extensive comparative analysis with other regions could have further strengthened his arguments. Nevertheless, *The Ends of Research* opens exciting avenues for future research. A comparative analysis of Indigenous research methodologies across different cultural contexts could yield valuable insights into the diverse ways in which Indigenous communities are reclaiming their knowledge systems, alongside an examination of the long-term impacts of collaborative research projects on Indigenous governance structures and land-management practices.

*The Ends of Research* offers a compelling analysis of the interplay among Indigenous knowledge systems, settler scientific practices, and environmental management. Özden-Schilling's innovative approach to understanding research as a form of resistance and reimagination, coupled with rigorous historical and ethnographic detail, significantly contributes to our understanding of Indigenous research in postcolonial contexts. This book will interest scholars in environmental studies, Indigenous studies, and STS, as well as those concerned with decolonizing research practices. By prompting readers to reconsider the very nature and purpose of scientific inquiry in contested territories, Özden-Schilling opens up new possibilities for more ethical, equitable, and environmentally sustainable approaches to knowledge production.

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