

**Of Living Stone: Perspectives on Continuous Knowledge and the Work of Vine Deloria Jr.** Edited by David E. Wilkins and Shelly Hulse Wilkins. Wheat Ridge: Fulcrum Publishing, 2024. 528 pages. \$35.00 paper; \$24.99 e-book.

*Of Living Stone* is rooted in the inherited concept of Native peoples that knowledge is intended to be used, critically critiqued, and modified to the realities of the present day. Vine Deloria Jr.'s diverse and vast research and writings are part of that inheritance and deserve critical review and recalibration. Contributors to this volume are an eclectic international mix of academics, activists, practitioners, and community leaders who approach Vine's work with humility and courage, lending it a deeper meaning as it is passed on to and transformed by a new generation. The authors take different approaches to analyze and comment on Vine's work. They share a common starting point of respect and commitment to Vine as a person, scholar, and activist. Their divergence stems from reframing his work to address contemporary issues, criticism for his lack of foresight, and reaffirmation of his foundational theories and works. The collection comprises four sections: Oak, Water, Sky, and Stone, each addressing the collective understanding of Vine's works through varying viewpoints.

In Oak, the authors examine current approaches to modern issues embedded in traditional knowledge. Frank Ettawageshik's essay on the federal recognition efforts of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians illustrates Vine's argument that tribes, through their elected and traditional leaders, have a responsibility to hold the United States accountable for the obligations it assumed in negotiating and ratifying Indian treaties. Vine's failure to effectively address the struggles of Native women and children in his writings is critiqued by Sarah Deer, who excuses his failure to rise to the divine or emulate perfection but chastises him for not doing more to bring attention to the federal government's treatment of Native women and children. The role Vine played as a scholar-activist, using his voice to speak for and with Native veterans, and the cognitive dissonance of having served in the military of the nation that actively worked to undermine treaty rights, cultural heritage, and land tenure is analyzed by Tom Holm. Through their analysis and critique, Vine's attempts to bridge the traditional and modern worlds are cast in a new light, offering future scholars the opportunity to develop further and improve his work, address the gaps, and forge new understandings.

In Water, the authors offer perspectives on restoring, regaining, and forming what is needed through the inspiration of ceremony and the maintenance of relations. Vine's critique of the role of science in the world was based on the ethical and unintended consequences of how scientific information and discovery were utilized. Margaret Hiza Redsteer and Kyle Whyte analyze his approach and warning about science in two separate contributions, acknowledging his observations on the political implications of

Native peoples being researched rather than being the researchers and his fascination with the tradition of pseudoscience. Along with the other contributions in this section, Vine's complicated relationship with science and advocacy for Indigenous knowledge systems is scrutinized in the context of social and political relevance, sovereignty, and suitability.

Humor, imagination, activism, and the transformative power of education are explored in Sky. Migizi Pensoneau's satirical opening to this section sets the stage for essays that maintain an analytical critique of Vine's work through the personal lens of knowing him and the application of his writings in the day-to-day work of the authors. Turning to the more serious, Faith Spotted Eagle recalls her *daki* (uncle), Vine, offering guidance to a colleague confronting systemic hierarchical violence in a battle with the Army Corps of Engineers in 2000. In retelling the *oyakepi* (story), she shares how Vine's personal and professional relationships became visible, intertwining his scholarly work with his lived experience and revealing that the scholar-activist was not merely performing a role, but embodying a lifelong vocation. Combined, the author's contributions further illuminate the complex individual whose work continues to push the boundaries of what education is and should do, and what it means to hold a seat in the ivory tower.

Stone bridges the past and present, reconstructing the links of kinship and tradition that all beings share. Gabriel Galanda's contribution starts with a remarkably unremarkable statement that Vine was a realist who described the conditions of Indian Country and Native peoples as they were. The realism that embodies his critiques of federal Indian law, science, colonialism, and society are the earworms that have inspired and irked scholars into utilizing, continuing, building on, and challenging Vine's words. The lack of critical analysis of traditional kinship practices in relation to contemporary Indigenous society in Vine's work is called out by Thomas Biolsi not simply as a shortcoming but as a topic characterized through extractive disciplines and the need to address the overall scholarship. Together, the contributions in this section highlight areas for further work that require additional research to address gaps and maintain the relevance of Vine's work, both now and in the future.

The volume falls short of the editors' expectations in the call to take up and further Vine's work. Though each contribution is rooted in his research and writings, the collection fails to suggest, point, or nudge the reader toward the unfinished work. The collection lacks concluding words that bring the contributions into conversation with one another. On the one hand, the underlying intention of the volume is to acknowledge the living legacy and importance of Vine's efforts. On the other hand, it is meant to serve as an invitation to continue, as work that is absent or so subtly disguised that it is overlooked, with the unintentional effect of sidelining the recalibration and application of Vine's research for contemporary times into a multiauthor reference memorial. Although a shortcoming, it leaves the reader to challenge themselves, explore Vine's work and its application to their research, and seek answers to the questions they pose.

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