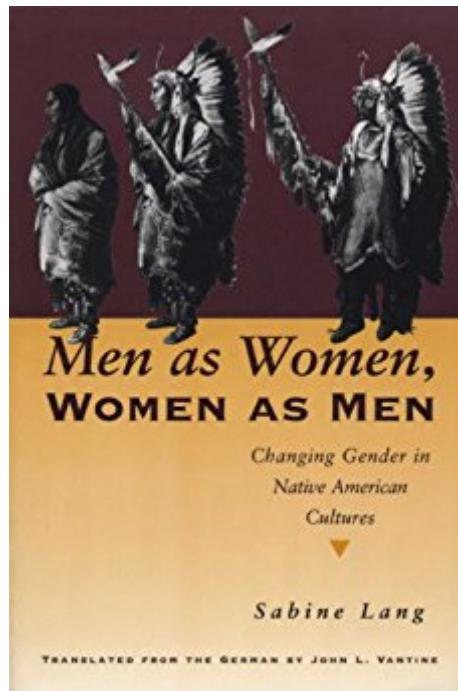


The book was found

# Men As Women, Women As Men: Changing Gender In Native American Cultures



## Synopsis

As contemporary Native and non-Native Americans explore various forms of "gender bending" and gay and lesbian identities, interest has grown in "berdaches," the womanly men and manly women who existed in many Native American tribal cultures. Yet attempts to find current role models in these historical figures sometimes distort and oversimplify the historical realities. This book provides an objective, comprehensive study of Native American women-men and men-women across many tribal cultures and an extended time span. Sabine Lang explores such topics as their religious and secular roles; the relation of the roles of women-men and men-women to the roles of women and men in their respective societies; the ways in which gender-role change was carried out, legitimized, and explained in Native American cultures; the widely differing attitudes toward women-men and men-women in tribal cultures; and the role of these figures in Native mythology. Lang's findings challenge the apparent gender equality of the "berdache" institution, as well as the supposed universality of concepts such as homosexuality.

## Book Information

File Size: 8957 KB

Print Length: 416 pages

Publisher: University of Texas Press (January 1, 2010)

Publication Date: January 1, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CBVSL48

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #808,082 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #348

in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Transgender #456 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Special Groups > Native American Studies #856 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies

## Customer Reviews

Sabine Lang's book is a very welcome and long overdue addition to the literature in a field that has been too long characterized by fragmentary data, historical bias, "hijacked" social use, and blatant homophobia. Lang's lengthy effort to compile the extant data on "two spirits" from the disparate disciplines of cultural history, sociology, anthropology, and Native American studies represents a formidable achievement. The sheer volume of data would dissuade many scholars from attempting the task. One of the most successful aspects of the work is Lang's refusal to editorialize the data. In a field of study where it seems everyone wants to support a personal agenda with research findings or historical incident, Lang maintains distance, confining her comments to pointing out historical inconsistencies, poor fieldwork, or obvious bias on the parts of observer/recorders. Lang's demographic distribution tables are particularly helpful for those of us who study this and other aspects of North American Native social life. Equally useful is her sorting out, demystifying, and de-biasing the vocabulary applied, historically, to the two-spirit phenomenon. Lang "repatriates" the language of the two-spirit. She removes it from the white observers' always vague and often denigrating terminology and restores it to its Native language - which is different from group to group and deserves to be respected, not replaced, by white words and concepts (none of which arise from the socio-spiritual context of Native society.) I have many favorite parts of *MEN AS WOMEN, WOMEN AS MEN*, but Lang's descriptions of how Christianization of Native communities has all but obliterated the reverence for and "necessary-ness" of two-spirit individuals to Native communities and their spiritual life is, I think, one of the book's most delicately handled and poignant aspects. Anyone who says a scholarly text cannot be moving emotionally has not read *MEN AS WOMEN, WOMEN AS MEN*.

*Men as Women, Women as Men* is much more than what the title suggests. It is a book of the American Indians way, view at one time, of how gay, lesbians, transgender and transsexual people had once been sacred. Revered in most tribes for the important roles they played in ceremonies and daily life. People they only saw as who they were. The book itself is filled with quite a bit of academic or scholarly terms but a lay person can read through it. I got this book to help with a paper I was writing for an anthropology class. As in the area I live it was unavailable in the libraries. I have enjoyed learning about some of my heritage, about how at one time in history, no Indian was ever thrown away for who they are.

The unintelligent and misinformed will be very much moved by this book. As hard as that may be to read, it needs to be said. As an avid advocate of LGBTQ rights, however, I am abhored by how many

people believe this book to be a masterpiece. Far from being levelheaded and sensitive, this book uses wrong pronouns and terminology and comes off as being a biased and clinical assessment penned by straight cisgender people. Alas, the author cannot tell a gay man and a trans-woman apart, a fact that should be causing critics to pan this book as misinformed pap. The book also goes on to talk about how gay men and trans-women are more promiscuous, which is nothing more than the false beliefs of people far removed from reality. The author's knowledge on Native American culture, too, is limited and presents far too much on the viewpoints that emerged long after the reckless destruction wrought by the West. If anything, this book is a bleak reminder of how far this world still is from acceptance and understanding. Just because a well-intentioned person writes a book on an oppressed populace, this does not make them a true ally with any real knowledge. Skip over this book and read the much more informed "Transgender Warriors" by Lesli Feinberg, which paints a far more accurate picture of gender diversity amongst Native American cultures as well as various other cultures.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Men as Women, Women as Men: Changing Gender in Native American Cultures Native America: A Concise Guide To Native American History - Native Americans, Indian American, Slavery & Colonization (Crazy Horse, Custer, Slavery, American Archaeology, Genocide, Aztec) I Have Spoken: a Chapbook of Native American Poetry by a Native American author Voices From Iran: The Changing Lives of Iranian Women (Gender, Culture, and Politics in the Middle East) Personal Persistence, Identity Development, and Suicide: A Study of Native and Non-Native North American Adolescents Learning Native Wisdom: What Traditional Cultures Teach Us about Subsistence, Sustainability, and Spirituality (Culture of the Land) Summary - The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up: By Marie Kondo -The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing (The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up ... Paperback, Audiobook, Audible, Japen) The Changing Room : Sex, Drag and Theatre (Gender in Performance) Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture (Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books) Community Activism and Feminist Politics: Organizing Across Race, Class, and Gender (Perspectives on Gender) Gender Selection: The Complete Guide: Choose the Sex of Your Baby with Easy and Proven Natural Methods (Gender Selection Methods) Gilbert and Sullivan: Gender, Genre, Parody (Gender and Culture Series) Gender Swapped by the Game (Gender Swap, Virtual Reality, Erotica) (EroticRPG Book 1) Gender Rift (Gender Transformation Erotica) My New Gender Workbook: A Step-by-Step Guide to Achieving World Peace Through Gender Anarchy and Sex Positivity Re-Visioning Family Therapy, Second Edition: Race, Culture, and Gender in Clinical Practice (Revisioning Family

Therapy: Race, Culture, & Gender in) The Gender Creative Child: Pathways for Nurturing and Supporting Children Who Live Outside Gender Boxes The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, an Illustrated Guide Native Tongue (Native Tongue Trilogy) The Comprehensive Hair Loss Guide: Hair Loss Treatment and Cure for Men and Women (Hair Loss Treatment for Women, Hair Loss Treatment for Men, Hair Loss ... Loss Remedies, Hair Loss Cure, Alopecia)

[Dmca](#)