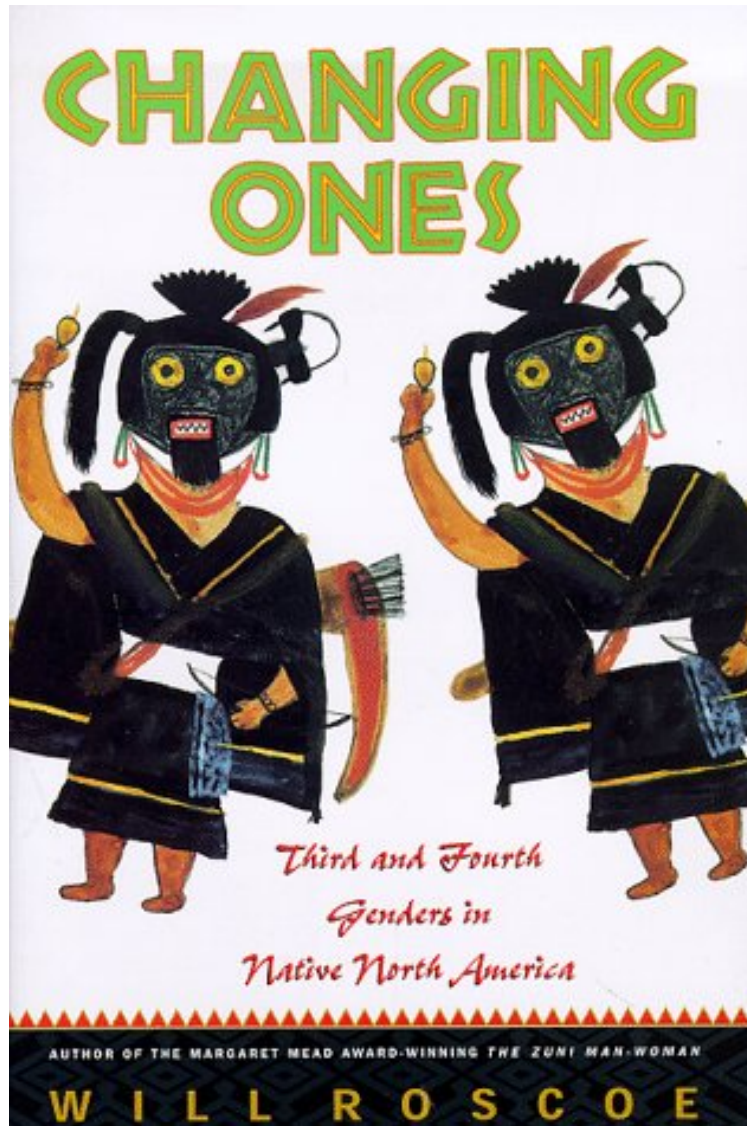


[FREE] Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America

## Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America

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From Palgrave Macmillan : **Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, informative book By Wallace Trust This would be a good text for a class. It was easy to read and packed with information about Native American alternative gender roles. It's

important for us to know that dual-gendered systems are not the only social arrangements out there. Imagine a society where a GLBTQ person was considered-- instead of being somehow defective-- to belong to a third or fourth gender, where they were usually respected for who they were and what they could contribute. Their gender identities made them rare and special, and they were thought to bring good luck. Often they became medicine men and women, or skilled craftpersons. Though interrupted by European colonization, this positive perspective is now slowly being regained by a new generation of Native Americans. A very enlightening book, with good scholarship, photos and references. 29 of 30 people found the following review helpful. The best book on the topic

By Stephen O. Murray

By starting with life experiences of some individual male and female berdache, Roscoe literally captivates readers, before carrying us into the comparative, theoretical, analytical second half which is sophisticated but clearly written. Will Roscoe's work on North American berdache/"two spirit" is far and away the most theoretically sophisticated and historically systematic work in a burgeoning field. While many people have been pawing at a few historical records and fantasizing a great deal, he has systematically gone through a multilingual literature, showed how the discourse unfolded in specific European national traditions, and sorted out continuities and discontinuities in space and in time (both in the discourse and in the phenomena of Native American cultural survival, insofar as it can be glimpsed through Christianity-distorted lenses). Although Roscoe's primary focus is on historical records of "berdache," he has also discusses contemporary "gay Indians," building on his earlier book *Living the Spirit*. My only regret is that Roscoe did not include his article "Was We'Wah [the Zuni 'man-woman' he wrote an earlier book about] a homosexual?" in this book. *Changing Ones* is the single indispensable book on the subject of gender and sexuality of Native American gender-mixing roles.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Profound Read A++++

By Sam Austin

One of the most informative and well documented reads. Everyone should have to read to have a better multi-cultural understanding of naturally occurring human sexual diversity. A++++

In many Native American tribal societies, it was not uncommon for some men to live as women and some women to live as men. In this land, the original America, men who wore womens clothes and did womens work became artists, ambassadors, and religious leaders, and women sometimes became warriors, hunters and even chiefs. Same-sex marriages flourished. Berdaches individuals who combine male and female social roles with traits unique to their status as a third gender have been documented in more than 150 North American tribes. By looking at this aspect of non-Western culture, Roscoe challenges the basis of the dualistic way most Americans think about sexuality, and shakes the foundation of the way we understand and define gender.

.com Will Roscoe makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of both Native American culture and alternative gender construction in this extension of the groundbreaking research in *The Zuni Man-Woman*. More than 150 tribes across America have members who engage in some form of gender identification beyond "male" and "female." Roscoe's study reveals how integral these third and fourth genders, and same-sex marriage, have been to the tribes' societies, in contrast to the intolerance demonstrated by the Judeo-Christian culture of the descendants of European invaders. His analysis of these tribes, rooted in the empirical evidence of their histories, also provides a fascinating counterpoint to theories about homosexual identity rooted solely in modern, Western preconceptions. "Will Roscoe is writing the history the history books don't talk about." -- Bay Area Reporter