



Activating the Heart: Storytelling, Knowledge Sharing, and Relationship. Edited by Julia Christensen, Christopher Cox, and Lisa Szabo-Jones. Waterloo, CN: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2018. 220 pages. \$24.99 paper, \$14.99 electronic.

Activating the Heart is a collaborative text focused on questioning the sources of knowledge we utilize in academia and the ways in which scholars engage with research in Indigenous communities. An anthology with contributions from across the disciplines, it has been edited by Julia Christensen (housing, social policy), Christopher Cox (linguistics), and Lisa Szabo-Jones (photography, ecology). While recently published, the work discussed took place over a broad time period with a variety of First Nations communities. The concept for the book came from a three-day workshop in Yellowknife, Canada, which was also titled “Activating the Heart.” Attended by a diverse assortment of academics, the goal of the workshop was to share stories, research projects, and experiences, and to understand the power of storytelling in research. As the editors explain, “This collection connects diverse communities with similar interests in the richness and variety of languages, histories, literatures, geographies, epistemologies, ontologies, spiritual beliefs, ecologies, healing practices, and activism” (xvii).

Thus, the text grapples with storytelling as a form of research that may lead to “transformative connections” (xiii). Specifically, this collection tries to unpack storytelling as a way of understanding and knowing the world that is rarely used in research but has the potential to be valuable to a variety of fields. It strives to create change in how we understand knowledge and knowledge-sharing, change the kinds of knowledges we privilege and their sources, and make space for Indigenous voices. The editors see the project as part of a broader movement in Canada to understand the Indigenous experiences in the country: they hope that the interdisciplinary work contributes to improved and more meaningful “qualitative research methods, policy-making, activism, artistic practice, meaning, and healing” (xiii), but also express their concern that the messages and stories are vulnerable to “cooption and tokenism” (177–78).

The editors have divided the anthology into three main sections, “Storytelling to Understand,” “Storytelling to Share,” and “Storytelling to Create.” Using poetry and prose, English and Dene Dháh, maps, photographs, and drawings, the contributing authors work to understand the meaning of storytelling. *Activating the Heart*’s most engaging feature is the variety of ways in which the authors share their research, with a range of specialties and Indigenous and non-Indigenous (settler) perspectives creating the patchwork text. However, even with the variety within *Activating the Heart*, the key themes are not overshadowed. These themes encompass relationship, reciprocity, healing, community engagement, celebrating Indigenous knowledge, and justice, but most salient are the value of Indigenous peoples’ intellectual contributions, and the importance of listening and learning.

Two essays best exemplify the need for reorienting the knowledges that academia values: Patrick Moore's "Re-Valuing Code-Switching: Lessons from Kaska Narrative Performances" in the "Storytelling to Understand" section and Rita Wong's "sleepless in Somba K'e" in "Storytelling to Create." Both emphasize the intellectual capacities of Indigenous peoples and the world in which they live. Moore's piece argues against the problematic trend of disparaging Indigenous language speakers who practice code-switching. He believes that the ability to code-switch shows the speaker's ability to master new languages and creatively engage with them (67). His writing style is scholarly, yet his examples of code-switching and the language of the community with which he works center Indigenous voices in the essay. Although Wong's style is very different, her piece and Moore's share a similar undercurrent. In her short, one-page essay, Wong wonders what we can learn from the Coney River, also known as the Yellowknife. She speaks to the river about the people and languages that surround it, the toxins that are spilled into it, the knowledge it holds, and its future.

A process of unknowing—or knowing differently—is necessary to understand these knowledge systems and worldviews. Together, these concepts form the purpose of *Activating the Heart*. A wonderful example is Leonie Sandercock's poem "Finding My Way: Emotions and Ethics in Community-Based Action Research with Indigenous Communities" (Storytelling to Understand), which is about her own coming to see anti-Indigenous sentiments and structures fully and building partnerships in the continuing process of decolonization. She writes about the "local guides" of a community opening her eyes to the social dynamics in the community with which she works and "an undressing of [her] very being" (11, 13).

Listening to and creating stories through a process of undoing colonial knowledge structures teaches how to center Indigenous voices, perspectives, knowledges, and worldviews for the benefit of Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike. Moreover, this book is generally readable with little of the disciplinary jargon that can make similar texts incomprehensible for both academic and non-academic outsiders. Its lessons are applicable and approachable for a variety of readers. Overall, *Activating the Heart* is an important addition to the body of work attempting to decolonize research concerning Indigenous groups.

Alex Sampson

University of California, Los Angeles

Comanches and Germans on the Texas Frontier: The Ethnology of Heinrich Berghaus. By Daniel J. Gelo and Christopher J. Wickham. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2018. 272 pages. \$35.00 cloth; \$19.25 electronic.

In this well-researched book, anthropologist Daniel J. Gelo and Germanist Christopher J. Wickham provide a penetrating analysis and the first English translation of German cartographer Heinrich Berghaus's forgotten 1851 *Geographic Yearbook* article, "On the Relationship of the Shoshones, Comanches, and Apaches." Berghaus's article is based