"Uniquely Navajo?: The Navajo Film Project Reconsidered

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Abstract

This year marks the forty-year anniversary of the publication of Through Navajo Eyes: An Exploration in Film Communication and Anthropology (1972). This seminal study has profoundly impacted not only what would become known as the anthropology of visual communication but related fields such as psychology, sociology, and media studies, among others. The book has since been adopted into the visual anthropology canon, and it occupies a familiar niche at the end of most bibliographies in the field. Rightfully hailed as a classic, the Navajo Film Project's findings have largely gone unquestioned—until now.

Keywords

visual anthropology; indigenous media; subject-generated Imagery; Media Ethnography

Full Text:

PDF

Refbacks

There are currently no refbacks.

Instead, the Navajo Housing Authority project became a symbol of money wasted. Michael Chow/The Republic. Fullscreen. The Navajo Housing Authority launched the Tolani Lake housing project in 2003 with $4.4 million in federal grant funds. Each unit contains several apartments, but they have never been used and have since been vandalized. Michael Chow/The Republic. Fullscreen. Signs of disuse are apparent at the Navajo Housing Authority’s Tolani Lake, Ariz., project. Apartments have broken windows and other forms of vandalism. Michael Chow/The Republic. Fullscreen. Signs of disuse are apparent at the Navajo Housing Authority’s Tolani Lake, Ariz., project. Apartments have broken windows and other forms of vandalism. (Photo: Michael Chow/The Republic). This year marks the forty-year anniversary of the publication of Through Navajo Eyes: An Exploration in Film Communication and Anthropology (1972). This seminal study has profoundly impacted not only what would become known as the anthropology of visual communication but related fields such as psychology, sociology, and media studies, among others. The book has since been adopted into the visual anthropology canon, and it occupies a familiar niche at the end of most bibliographies in the field. Rightfully hailed as a classic, the Navajo Film Project's findings have largely gone unques...