Race and the Crisis of Humanism
By Kay Anderson

Winner of the Gleebooks award for Critical Writing of the 2008 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards

Kay Anderson’s provocative account explores the impact of colonial encounters in Australia on international knowledge about human difference in the 19th century. It emphasises the singular challenge that Australian colonial encounters aroused in Enlightenment notions of human unity and development. Far from confirming European views of ‘savage’ others, nature/native encounters precipitated a crisis in existing ideas - all the more contentious to today - of what it meant to be human. As colonial consternation grew about their inclination and capacity for improvement, and particularly for cultivation, the Aborigines challenged the basis on which the unity of humankind had been assumed. The intractable Aborigine came to supply seemingly irrefutable evidence for an innate racial difference; and the strongest support for those who maintained the intrinsic inferiority of the ‘dark-skinned’ races more generally. Race and the Crisis of Humanism is an original, multidisciplinary synthesis that should be read by all those interested in race and empire, critical race theory, Australian studies, human geography, anthropology, cultural and environmental studies.

About the Author
Kay Anderson is Professor of Cultural Research at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney. She is a leading scholar in the field of cultural geography and is internationally recognized for her contributions to the development of the “cultural turn” in Geography. She is the author of (award-winning) Vancouver’s Chinatown: Racial Discourse in Canada 1875-1980 and co-editor and contributor of the Handbook of Cultural Geography. She is an elected Academician of the UK Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences, and an elected Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. In 2007 she received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association of American Geographer’s Ethnic Geography Specialty Group.

$49.95 Pb, ISBN 978-1-8447-2151-1
Published December 2006, 240 pages
Routledge

www.palgravemacmillan.com.au
## Order Form

Please supply titles as indicated below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DELIVERY ADDRESS** (Please attach your business card if appropriate)

Name:  
Department:  
Institute:  
Address:  
Campus:  
Phone:  
Postcode:  

(Street address is required for delivery - do not state PO Box number)

---

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

www.palgravemacmillan.com.au  
fax your regional office  
email your regional office palgrave@macmillan.com.au  
phone your regional office

---

**BILLING ADDRESS**

Name:  
Address:  
Postcode:  

---

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- Please invoice us - Order No.
- (Attach your official order with this order number)
- We enclose a cheque or charge our credit card for $payable to Macmillan Publishers Australia Pty Ltd  
  Card No. mastercard  
  visa  
  Cardholders Name__________  
  Signature__________  
  Expiry Date _______ / _______  

---

Palgrave Macmillan is committed to protecting your privacy. By supplying your details you give Palgrave Macmillan permission to contact you about Palgrave Macmillan products and services. Palgrave Macmillan will only use the information provided by you for the intended purpose. Should you not wish to be thus contacted, please contact us on (03) 9825 1111 or at palgrave@macmillan.com.au

---

### Praise for Race and the Crisis of Humanism:

“Intelligent and provocative. Its arguments are strenuous and clear. It approaches a general subject area (18th and 19th-century western understandings of race) that has received a great deal of attention in recent decades…from a perspective that is multiply fresh. Race and the Crisis of Humanism constitutes an important contribution to a lively and contentious field.”

—Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J Conner Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“A remarkably rich and eminently readable account of how ‘race’ became re-imagined in the nineteenth century as a result of a new anxiety over what it meant to be human.”

—John Agnew, Professor of Geography University of California, Los Angeles

“Are you sure you are human? A history of the fraught concept of humanism is long overdue, and Anderson makes it politically urgent by putting it in the context of knowledge about race.”

—Stephen Muecke, Professor of Cultural Studies University of Technology, Sydney

“Thistimelygeographical historiography of race presents a provocative and convincing case for a posthumanist anti-racism. Race and the Crisis of Humanism invites us to reconsider the conceptual entanglements of the ‘human’, ‘nature’ and ‘race’ in shifting understandings of human universality, diversity, origins and development.”

—Catherine Nash, Reader in Human Geography Queen Mary, University of London

---

Visit www.palgravemacmillan.com.au for more titles!