

The pearl frontier: Indonesian labor and indigenous encounters in Australia's northern trading network.

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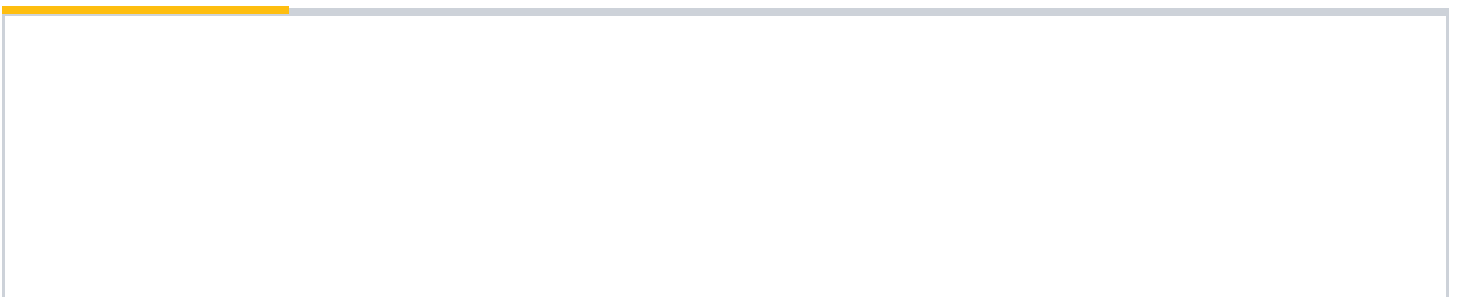
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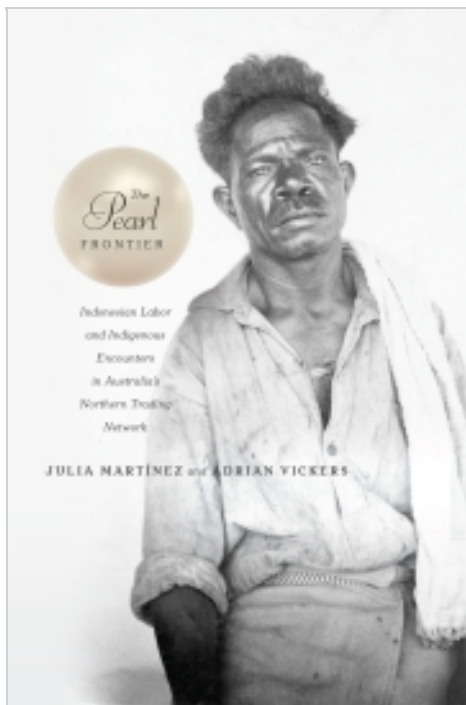


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The Pearl Frontier: Indonesian Labor and Indigenous Encounters in Australia's Northern Trading Network

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2015

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SUMMARY

Remarkable for its meticulous archival research and moving life stories, *The Pearl Frontier* offers a new way of imagining Australian historical connections with Indonesia. This compelling view of maritime mobility demonstrates how, in the colonial quest for the valuable pearl-shell, Australians came to rely on the skill and labor of Indonesian islanders, drawing them into their northern pearling trade empire. From the 1860s onwards the pearl-shell industry developed alongside British colonial conquests across Australia's northern coast and prompted the Dutch to consolidate their hold over the Netherlands East Indies. Inspired by tales of pirates and priceless pearls, the pearl frontier witnessed the maritime equivalent of a gold rush; with traders, entrepreneurs, and willing workers

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