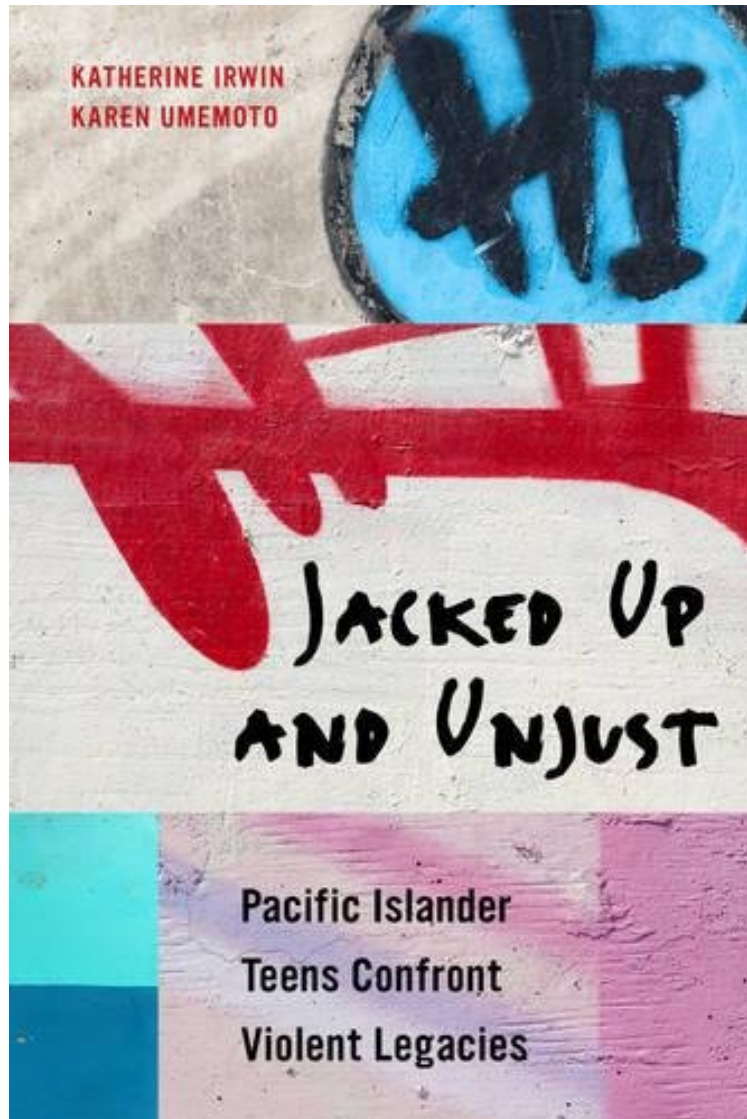


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Jacked Up and Unjust: Pacific Islander Teens Confront Violent Legacies

Katherine Irwin, Karen Umemoto
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Katherine Irwin, Karen Umemoto : Jacked Up and Unjust: Pacific Islander Teens Confront Violent Legacies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jacked Up and Unjust: Pacific Islander Teens Confront Violent Legacies:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Bobbie Spencergood read for anyone working with kids1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is definitely not an easy read as it appears to be written for

an ...By Joan Loraine This book is a look at adolescent behavior in the State of Hawaii. This is definitely not an easy read as it appears to be written for an audience of psychologists/sociologists or those working with teens in that state. The authors spent time observing, interviewing, and interacting with the teens and some parents. Stories are told of why the students fight one another, the differences between how boys and girls are treated in the culture and society. It was interesting to read about the girls working hard to develop a sexually pure reputation and look for long term love. The boys seem to only want to hang out and have fun. They want to date the sexually pure girls and will give them the impression that they are also looking for long term love. While "Jacked Up and Unjust" does not appear to be written for the every day reader, but more for the psychologist type person, it is a really interesting read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is a great read for anyone who works with adolescents or in ...By Caitlin G Having already known a portion of the racism and poverty those native to Hawaii experience on a daily basis, I was intrigued with the topic of this book. In the past I've had to read short case studies in various college courses which discussed this topic. The way Ms. Irwin and Ms. Umemoto gather their information from actual youth participants made reading the experiences all the worth while. I had no idea to what extent the teenage Pacific Islander population faced injustice when it came to the criminal justice system. The conversations, interviews and observations made were insightful to anyone who loves clinical data. I found it interesting to see what programs and different processes worked for the authors; and also how those who are violent at one point in their teenage life doesn't always lead to a lifetime of violence. This book is a great read for anyone who works with adolescents or in a school setting.

In the context of two hundred years of American colonial control in the Pacific, Irwin and Umemoto shed light on the experiences of inner-city as well as rural girls and boys in Hawai'i. During their nine-year ethnographic study, teens openly discussed facing off against racism, sexism, poverty, and political neglect on a daily basis. The authors highlight how past injustices endure as challenging legacies in the present, prompting teens to fight for dignity and the chance to thrive in America - a country that the youth described as inherently "jacked up," "unjust," and "rigged" against them. While the story begins with the youth battling multiple contingencies, it ends on a hopeful note, as we see the teens overcome numerous hardships, often with the help of steadfast, caring adults.

"This remarkable book demonstrates the incredible spirit of resilience that young people generate as they encounter poverty, racism, violence, and institutional failure and neglect. Irwin and Umemoto insightfully demonstrate the processes and programs that work in changing the punitive treatment that marginalized youths receive. This riveting ethnography provides readers with a rare look at the experiences of young women within the juvenile justice system." -- Victor Rios, author of *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* "Jacked Up sensitively captures the complex of forces that bear down on a youth population we know very little about, helping us to understand the violence enacted upon them and by them, the turbulence and entanglements of Hawaii's colonial past, racial and gender injustice, the penalty of poverty and the fallout from youth incarceration. A thoughtful ethnography." -- Amy L. Best, author of *Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture* and *Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars* "This ethnography is a critical analysis of the experiences of Pacific Islander adolescents whose lives are plagued by interpersonal, structural, and postcolonial violence. It is the result of years of research and based on over one hundred interviews and observations. It is a one-of-a-kind in its deployment of intertwining analytic approaches of colonial criminology and of what is termed a system of colonial patriarchy, and it uncovers new ways to understand the meaning-making work of the youth participants' experiences." -- Laurie Schaffner, author of *Girls in Trouble with the Law* "Irwin and Umemoto are among a growing cadre of international critical criminologists who are prioritizing narratives and the voices of the youth they interviewed. . . . Young females' voices are particularly lacking [in the criminology field], and it is rare to read or hear about the plight of young Pacific Islanders: this makes it all the more necessary for their voices to be heard to develop effective means of preventing them from coming into conflict with the law. . . . Irwin and Umemoto should be applauded for writing a path-breaking book that fills some major gaps in the existing literature on youth violence. I encourage students and scholars, irrespective of their research interests or theoretical orientations, to read a monograph that is destined to become a classic piece of scholarship." -- Walter DeKeseredy, author of *Contemporary Critical Criminology, Rural Criminology, Abusive Endings, Dangerous Exits From the Author* We examine racism, sexism, and alternatives to harsh criminal justice punishments in *Jacked Up and Unjust: Pacific Islander Teens Confront Violent Legacies*. Teens in this study spoke of the U.S. as an inherently racist country - a place where the police, teachers, and school administrators were out to punish them. America's reliance on harsh criminal justice sanctions over the past few decades has made us a global leader in incarceration. Not surprisingly, most of the teens who acted violently in this study had at least one family member who had been incarcerated. Youth had visceral knowledge of this over-incarceration, leading them to feel that "U.S. system" was much more likely to target than to help them. This study with Pacific Islander teens taught us that the punitive turn in the U.S. has left a lasting legacy in the psyche of many young people. Teens grew to avoid adults and adult institutions in fear of punishment. There is good news revealed in *Jacked Up and Unjust*. The take-away lesson is that young people who behave violently are not headed for a lifetime of pathology, hate, and brutality. Marshaling support

services and providing spaces for youth to feel connected, cared for, and listened to can change lives. From the Inside Flap "This remarkable book demonstrates the incredible spirit of resilience that young people generate as they encounter poverty, racism, violence, and institutional failure and neglect. Katherine Irwin and Karen Umemoto insightfully demonstrate the processes and programs that work in changing the punitive treatment that marginalized youths receive. This riveting ethnography provides readers with a rare look at the experiences of young women and men within the juvenile justice system."--Victor Rios, author of *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* "Jacked Up and Unjust sensitively captures the complex of forces that bear down on a youth population we know very little about, helping us to understand the violence enacted upon them and by them, the turbulence and entanglements of Hawai'i's colonial past, racial and gender injustice, the penalty of poverty, and the fallout from youth incarceration. A thoughtful ethnography."--Amy L. Best, author of *Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars* "This ethnography is a critical analysis of the experiences of Pacific Islander adolescents whose lives are plagued by interpersonal, structural, and postcolonial violence. A one of a kind in its deployment of intertwining analytic approaches of colonial criminology, this book uncovers new ways to understand the meaning-making work of the youth participants' experiences."--Laurie Schaffner, author of *Girls in Trouble with the Law*