



Weavers of Men and Women: Niuean Weaving and Its Social Implications

Hilke Thode-Arora

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Weavers of Men and Women: Niuean Weaving and Its Social Implications Hilke Thode-Arora For women from the small Polynesian island Niue, weaving means more than just intertwining strands. Highly adaptive in a history of evangelisation, colonisation and in the present situation where 90 % of all Niueans live in the New Zealand diaspora, weaving has accompanied and triggered social change processes. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in Niue and Auckland as well as on the comparison of Niuean woven objects in a number of museum collections, the book gives a detailed overview of Niuean weaving past and present, and its social implications. Apart from a summary of Niuean history and migration, a survey of the technical side of weaving, of the variety and use of woven objects is given. The dynamics of some elements of Niuean social structure on the island and in the diaspora are explored, and the way weaving has been intertwined with them.



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