

NOTED:

Moral quandary over social and political use of mobile phones

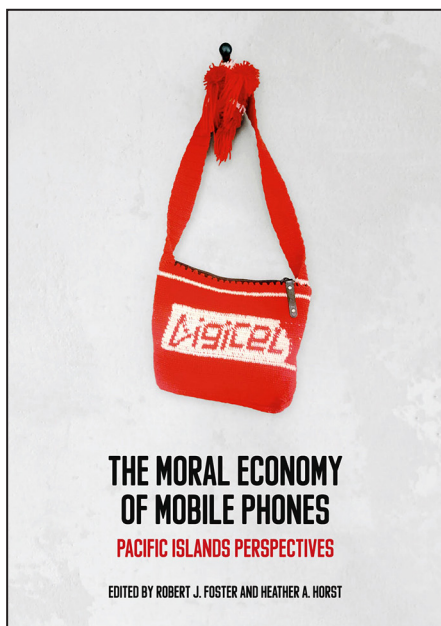
The Moral Economy of Mobile Phones: Pacific Islands Perspectives, edited by Robert J. Foster and Heather A. Horst. Canberra: ANU Press, 2018. 163 pages. ISBN 978-1-7604-6208-6 (print); 978-1-7604-6209-3 (e-book)

WHILE anthropologists have mainly studied mobile phone use at an individual or group level, the entry of Digicel into Pacific nations' mobile markets over the past decade has introduced a wider set of issues that are explored here in detail.

Robert Foster details the tradeoffs of managing mobile phone credits and airtime in Papua New Guinea, showing how airtime credits and reduced calling rate promotions influence the ways people conduct their relationships and maintain social networks.

Holly Wardlow's chapter on mobile phone use in HIV treatment highlights not just how technology offers new approaches to treatment, but also the complex moral territory of 'phone friend' relationships, which offer support and safety through what often amounts to fantasy or deception.

Dan Jorgensen describes Toby, who claims mobile phones are a conspiracy to bring US surveillance to Papua New Guinea; yet, the mobile network once saved his life when he was stuck in the mountains without shelter and close to death.



While deep ambivalence towards the adoption of digital technologies is nothing new, the moral element of these analyses in their Pacific contexts is striking, particularly where tensions between use and misuse and questions of social and political power are involved. - *Dr Christopher Thomson, co-director, Arts Digital Lab, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.*

E-Tangata—getting it right

The Best of e-Tangata, edited by Tapu Misa and Gary Wilson. Wellington: Bridget Williams, 2017. 208 pages. ISBN 978-0-9475-1845-5

THE BEST of e-Tangata is a collection of pieces from the online site (<https://e-tangata.co.nz/>) that offer insights into the lives of Māori and Pasifika people in Aotearoa. Some of their