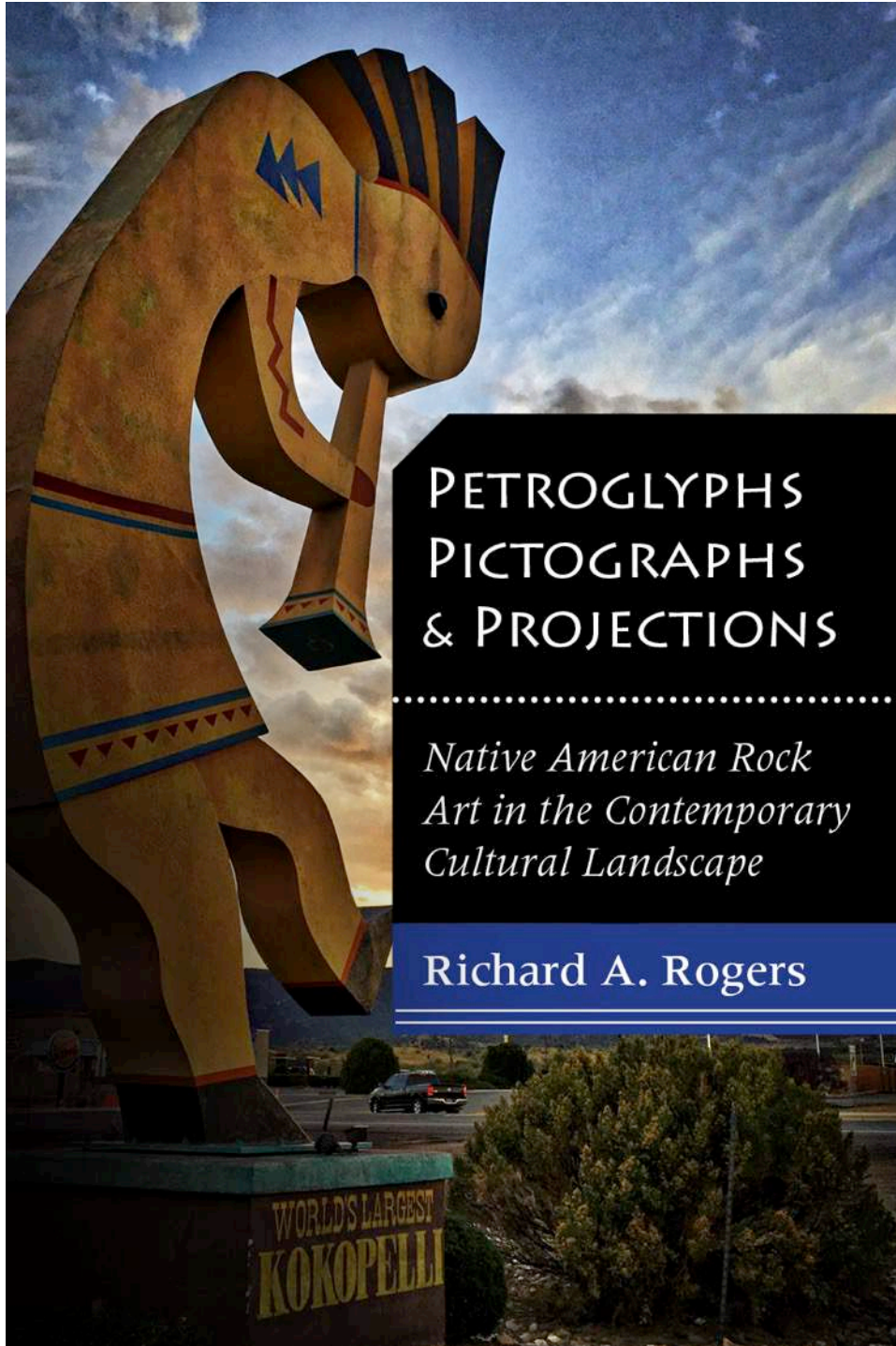


Searching for Flute Players, Finding Kokopelli: Phalluses, Fallacies, and Fantasies

Richard A. Rogers

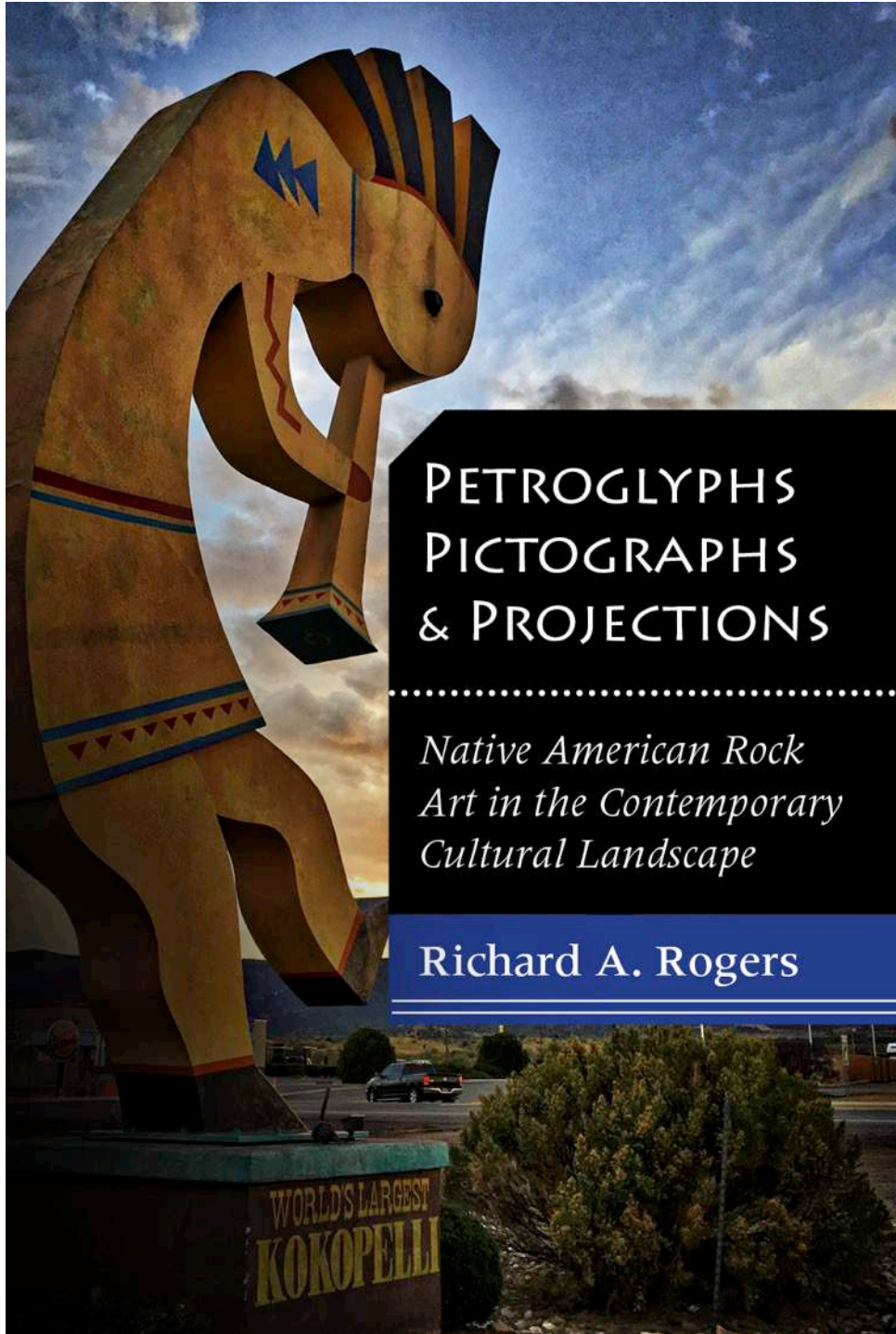




Chapter 5

Phalluses and Fantasies: Kokopelli, Caricature, and Commodification

University of Utah Press, 2018



- Primary goal is
- not to identify what rock art meant in the cultures that produced it, but
 - to understand the contemporary visibility, popularity, reproduction, interpretation, and management of rock art by and for non-Native peoples.

Questions

- What *motivates* the projection of contemporary meanings and ideologies onto the rock art of cultures of the past?
- What *work* is done by the interpretation, reproduction, and use of rock art imagery in the context of contemporary Anglo-America?

Preview

1. Flute players vs. *Kookopölö* vs. Kokopelli
2. How flute players became “Kokopelli”
3. Fallacies, Phalluses, and Castration Infatuation
4. Fantasies of Hypervirility and Promiscuity

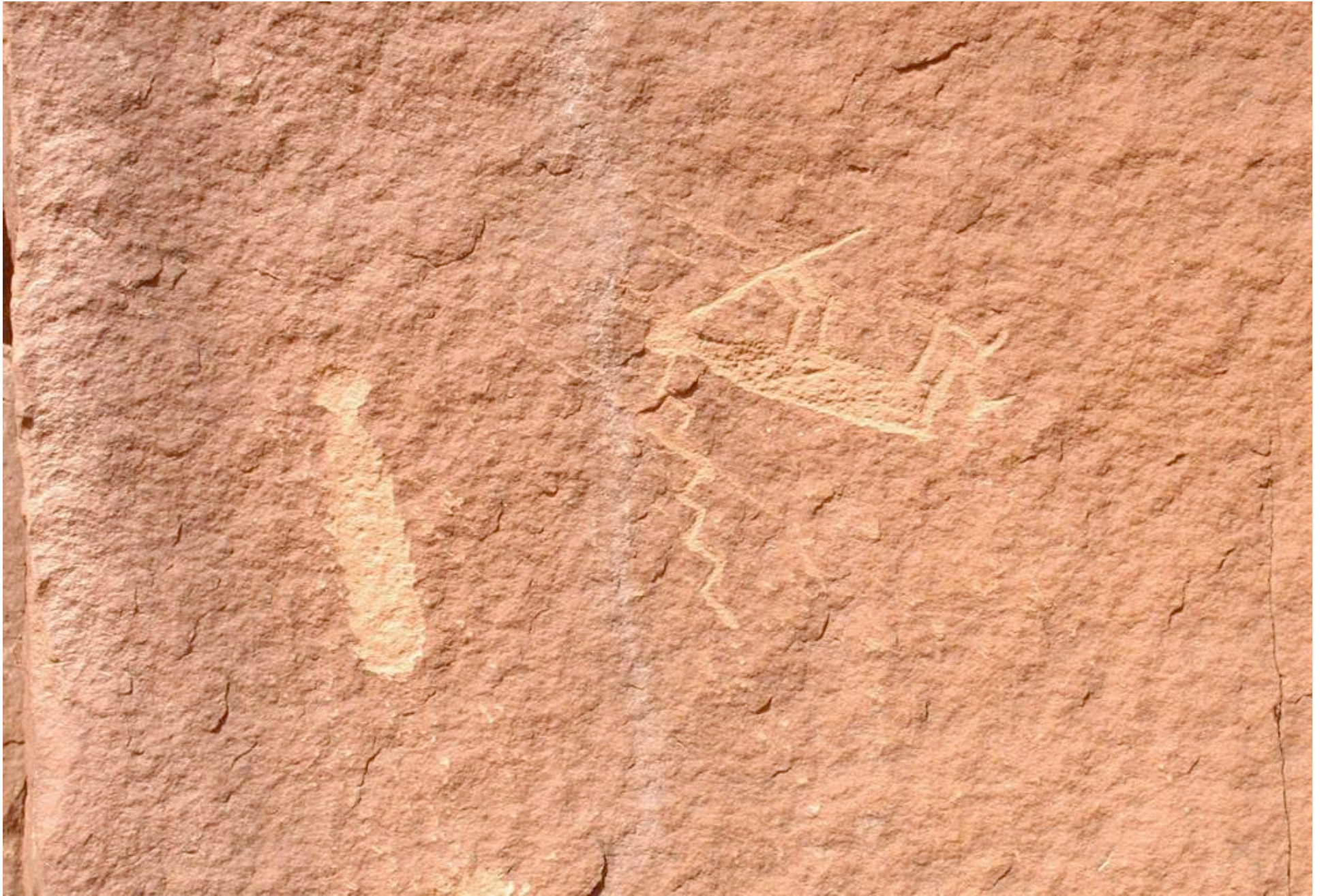




Little Colorado River near Wupatki National Monument, Arizona



Little Colorado River near Homolovi State Park, Arizona



Middle Mesa, Wupatki National Monument, Arizona



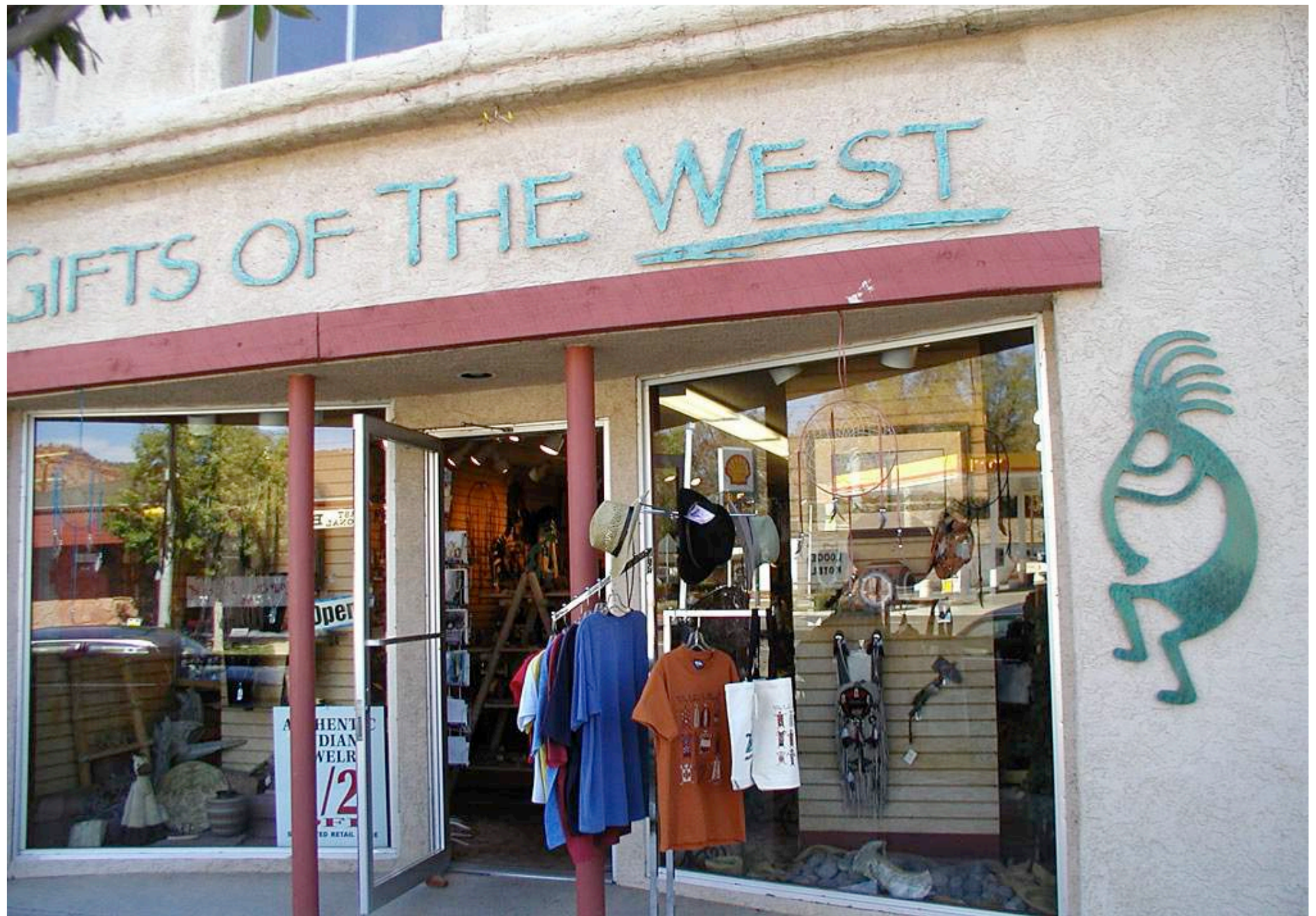
Cave Valley, Zion National Park, Utah



San Francisco Wash, near Winona, Arizona



Sand Island, San Juan River, Utah



Kanab, Utah

Kokopelli

- A contemporary commercial figure
- Rise in visibility in Southwest since the 1980s
- Plays a flute
- Hunched posture indicative of dancing or “jamming”
- Antennae, feathers, “dreadlocks”
- No explicit indicators of biological sex but all are labeled as male



“World’s Largest Kokopelli,” Camp Verde, Arizona



Bronze statue, Gary Prazen, Price, Utah (before relocation)

Hopi Views of Flute Players

- Hopi consultants have denied that flute players are “Kokopelli” (e.g., Turner 1963)
- Flute players are often referred to as *maahu* (cicada), *lelenhoya* (flute player), or *Lelentiyo* (Flute Boy) (e.g., Malotki 2000)
- Often identified as a clan symbol, not the image of a *katsina*, let alone *Kookopölö*

Analysis of Kokopelli's Meanings

- Websites
- Nonfiction books about Kokopelli
- Informational pamphlets/sheets/signs
- Merchandise, ads, and branding
- Mass media appearances
- Novels featuring Kokopelli

Meanings Assigned to Kokopelli

- Impressively phallic and hypervirile
- Trader from Mesoamerica (*puchteca*)
- Seducer of maidens
- “The Casanova of the Cliffdwellers”
- “The Anasazi Don Juan”
- Castrated by Anglo-America’s puritanical prudishness
- Rock star

Moral-Sexual Ambiguity

- Walker's (1998:4) *Cuckoo for Kokopelli* describes him as “traveling-salesman love machine” who “is not, however, a good mascot for your sixth-grade daughter's softball team.”
- Max Bertola's (1996) southern Utah tourist information website warns visitors who camp near a flute player rock art site that “if, during the night, you hear the gentle tones of the flute, you'd better lock up your wives and daughters.”

WANTED



KOKOPELLI

Also known as Neopkwai'i. May have used name of Esteban and Casanova. Occasionally called Water Sprinkler.

Has decided hunchback, dark complexion. Carries pack of goods, plays flute, poses as traveling salesman. Was associated with an early Zuni gambler. Sometimes travels with horny woman, who calls herself Kokopelli-mana. He may have been involved in the bankruptcy of Pueblo Bonito in the late 13th century.

Hohokam Tribal Police have had an all points bulletin on him for several centuries. Since Basketmaker days he has been wanted on charges of despoiling maidens, seducing wives, and gambling.

Postcard, Twin Rocks Trading Post, Bluff, Utah



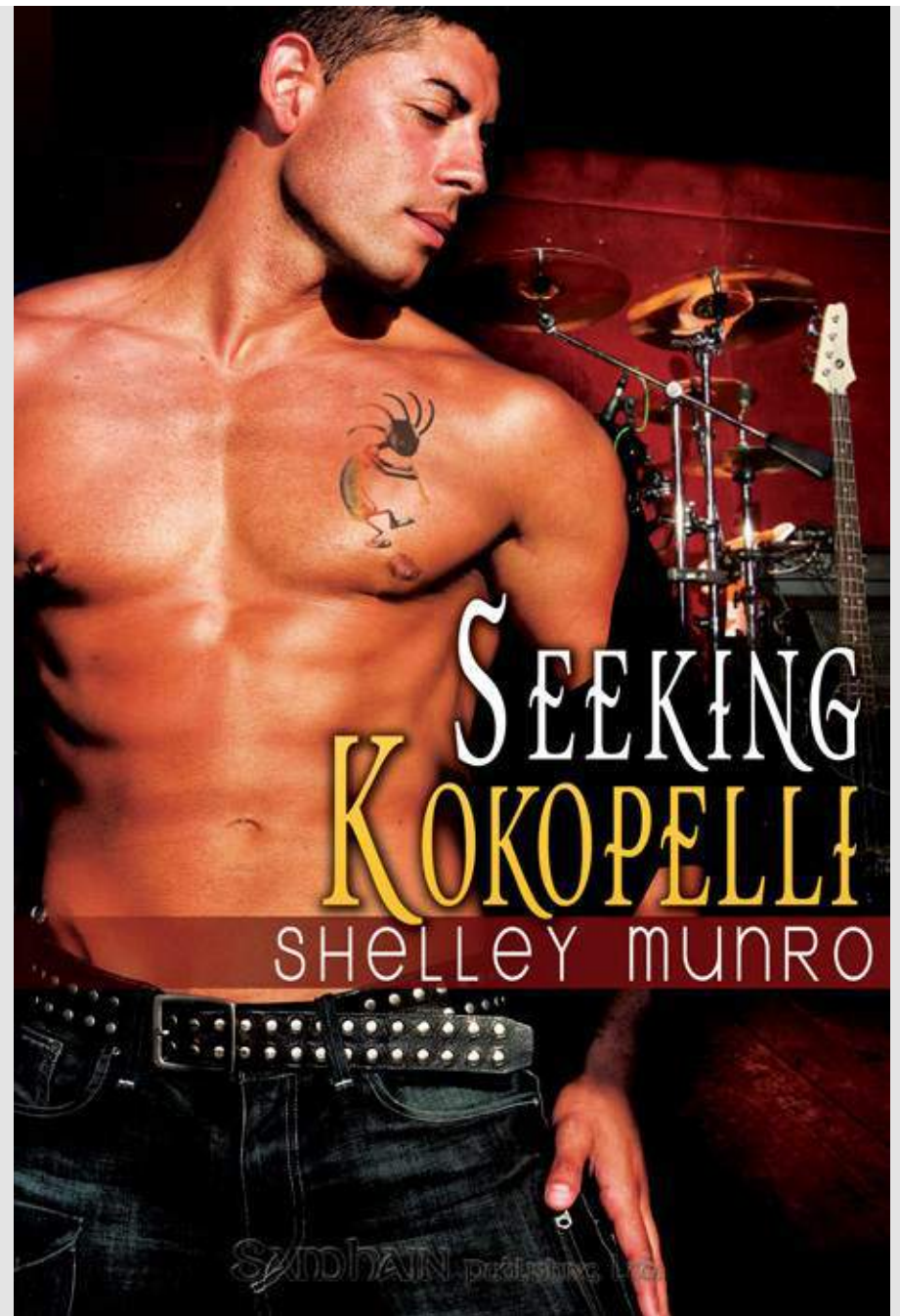
Arizona Music Pro, Flagstaff, Arizona

Kokopelli as Rock Star

- “He’s our oldest rock star, the pre-Columbian Coolio, the charismatic headliner of Mesoamerican Bandstand. As the patron saint of hospitality in the Four Corners states, he’s the guy to call when you want to party like it’s 999” (Walker 1998:45).
- “Kokopelli is the ancient Indian version of Elvis” (Banks 1999).



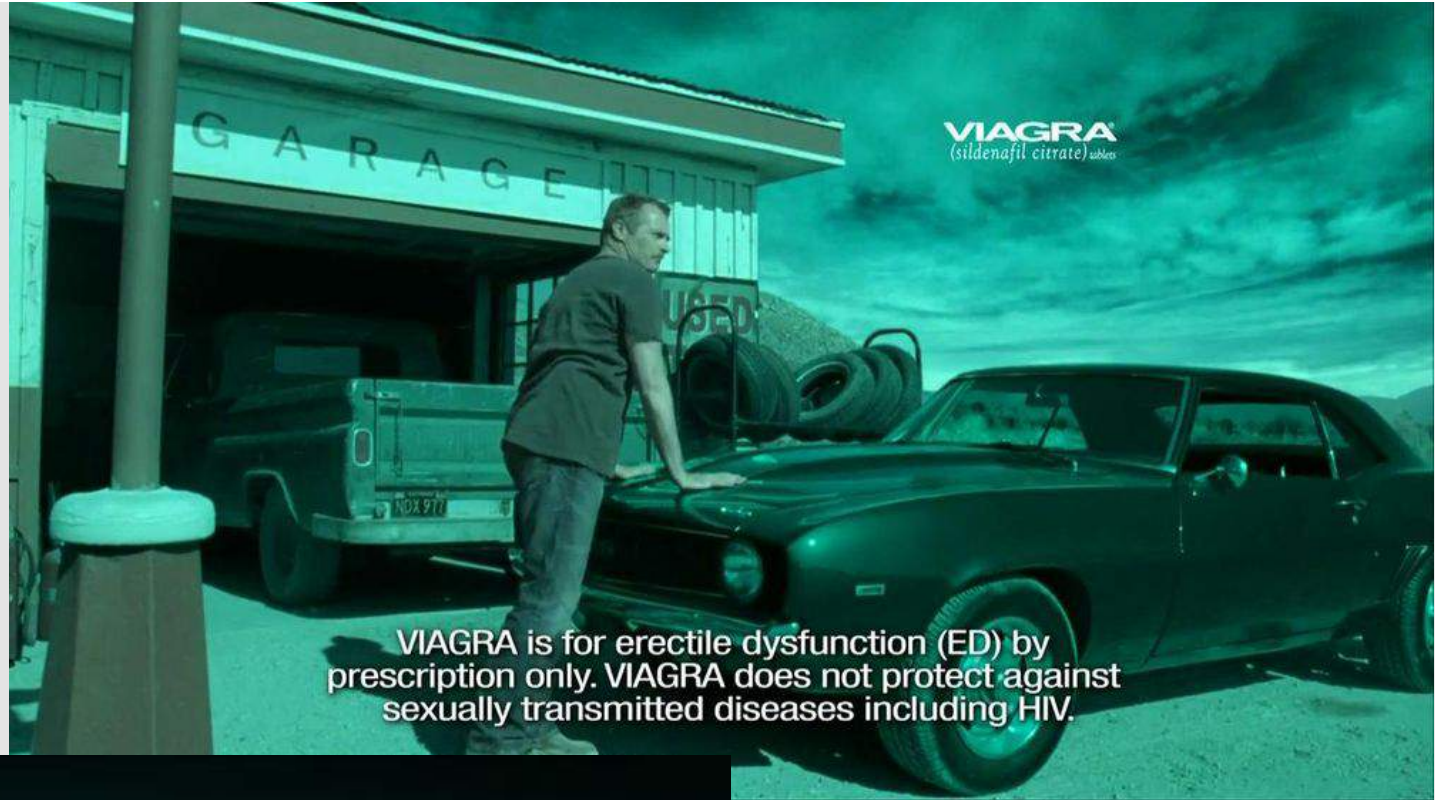
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Feedback Loops

- Not only can the interpretations of outsiders affect contemporary indigenous cultures' understandings of their own cultural heritage, but...
- In the case of Kokopelli, there is a very literal feedback loop operating here as well: additions of contemporary Kokopelli images to indigenous rock art sites.



Near Jailhouse Ruin, Bullet Canyon, Bears Ears NM



Hickison Pass, Highway 50, Lander County, Nevada

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