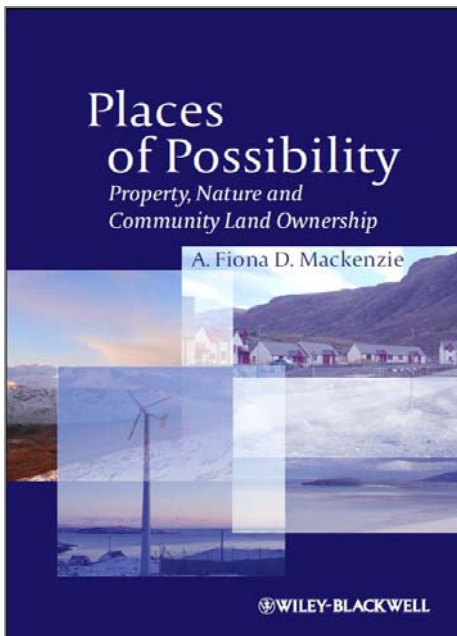


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# Places of Possibility

## *Property, Nature and Community Land Ownership*

### A. Fiona D. Mackenzie

#### *About the author*

**A. Fiona D. Mackenzie** is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada and Honorary Professor, University of the Highlands and Islands. Professor Mackenzie has carried out in-depth qualitative research on the Isle of Harris, the Outer Hebrides, and is the author of *Land, Ecology and Resistance in Kenya, 1880-1952* (1998).

*"In this splendid book Fiona Mackenzie provides an excellent analysis of the principles and practice of community land-ownership, an idea which is transforming the landscape of the Scottish highlands. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in the Hebrides and a very wide range of interdisciplinary references she adds depth and clarity to our understanding of this profound shift in Scottish society."*

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*"Because Fiona Mackenzie has spent a lot of time in the area, she has got to grips with the Highlands and Islands experience of community ownership in a way that no other academic author has done. Mackenzie has much to say that is novel, perceptive and important, while her background and experience is such as to enable her to bring a range of theoretical perspectives to bear on her subject matter."*

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To maximize the efficiencies of land ownership, the market-driven approach of neo-liberalism would have it placed entirely in the hands of the private sector. *Places of Possibility* reveals how community land ownership can open up the political, social, environmental, and economic terrain to far more socially just and sustainable possibilities than the privatization espoused by neo-liberalism.

Drawing on comprehensive qualitative research carried out in the Outer Hebrides, environmental geography specialist A. Fiona D. Mackenzie argues that these possibilities are created through the disruption of prevalent norms of property and nature. The author shows how current land reforms taking place in the islands of the Outer Hebrides are revealed to be places of possibility where neoliberal norms of enclosure and privatization – and of a nature separate from the social – are unsettled with community land ownership. With a careful balance of original theoretical insights and intellectual rigour, *Places of Possibility* dispels prevailing notions of neoliberal globalization to reveal the rich political possibilities of community land ownership and its place in the twenty-first century world.

#### *Publication details*

240 pages • **DECEMBER 2012**

978-1-4051-9172-2 • hardback • US\$89.95 / CAN\$98.95 / €71.90 / £55.00

978-1-4051-9171-5 • paperback •

US\$34.95 **US\$27.96** / CAN \$43.95 **CAN\$35.16** / €25.90 **€20.72** / £19.99 **£15.99**