Cultural appropriation statement

What is cultural appropriation?

According to James Young (*Cultural Appropriation and the Arts*, 2010), **cultural appropriation** is the adoption or use of elements of one culture by members of another. While such cultural borrowing and adoption is common throughout history, as members of different cultural groups met, mixed, traded, conquered, intermarried, migrated, and otherwise came into contact, cultural appropriation is different than these forms of borrowing and mixing. When a cultural element is appropriated, the meaning associated with that element (e.g., a symbol, name, image, phrase, song, ritual, or other practice) is lost or distorted, and the misuse is explicitly seen as disrespectful or even offensive by members of the home culture. Borrowing an image, symbol, or other cultural element from another culture can take a variety of forms, ranging on a continuum from taking **creative license** (using a cultural element as inspiration for a creation, which changes it so much that the original form is not readily recognizable) to **cultural appropriation** (borrowing or use without proper acknowledgement, permission, or cultural context) to **expropriation** (the wholesale reproduction or misuse of a cultural element that constitutes plagiarism).

What is Mānoa Horizons’ policy regarding cultural appropriation?

As with all undergraduate student work we publish, we expect authors and contributors to strictly and carefully adhere to all applicable copyright and intellectual property laws and regulations. Cultural appropriation is a form of intellectual plagiarism that a reasonable effort to consult with members of the originating cultural group would reveal to be offensive or disrespectful. Mānoa Horizons does not tolerate cultural appropriation, and will refuse publication of any work considered inappropriate or poorly researched by our Editorial Board.

How can I avoid cultural appropriation?

This is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of best practices, but rather a place to start the conversation between yourself and members of an originating cultural group. In that spirit, we offer some recommendations for best practices for avoiding cultural appropriation:

1. Do your research! Just as you would when using a quote from another author in a paper, any use or borrowing of an element from another culture should be accompanied by a thorough and careful review of that element’s meanings, proper uses, contexts and history, and those aspects of the cultural element should be properly cited and explained. Failing to do so is a form of plagiarism, and may disqualify your work from acceptance in your journal. For a paper, this context should be part of the text; for a creative work, the attribution and explanation may be included in the accompanying Artist Statement.

2. Make sure your work is original, rather than an amalgamation of cultural elements.

3. Cite and acknowledge your influences and the sources of your ideas and research in your work.

4. Consult academic experts, cultural practitioners, and others as appropriate before submitting your work to Mānoa Horizons.

*Mānoa Horizons* undergraduate journal [https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons/](https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons/)