



2026 Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Speakers

Kaj Besman grew up and currently reside in Berkeley California while attending Berkeley City College. His academic interest is economics with a current research focus on genocide economies.

George Bisharat was a trial lawyer for the Office of the Public Defender in San Francisco before joining the UC Law SF faculty in 1991. Professor Bisharat studied law, anthropology, and Middle East studies at Harvard, and wrote a book about Palestinian lawyers working under Israeli military occupation in the West Bank. He writes frequently on law and politics in the Middle East, both for academic audiences and for major media sources in the U.S. and abroad. He is a blues musician specializing in the chromatic harmonica, and as “Big Harp George” has recorded eight albums that earned award nominations and critical acclaim.

Gregory Campbell

Professor Campbell is an ethnologist interested in issues of race, ethnicity, and cultural heritage.

Dr. Joseph Scott Gladstone is an Associate Professor of Management in the Carson College of Business at Washington State University–Everett. An enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation and of Nez Perce descent, he studied during his doctoral training with Gregory Cajete and Donald Pepion. His scholarship develops Indigenous-centered theoretical frameworks, positioning Native American relational philosophy and Indigenous Ways of Knowing as foundational for theorizing meaning-making, relationality, and institutional life.

Sidney M. Greenfield is Professor of Anthropology Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Co-chair of the Columbia University Seminars on Brazil, Studies in Religion and Contents and Methods in the Social Sciences. He is past president of the Association of Senior Anthropologists and the Anthropology of Consciousness sections of the American Anthropological Association. Professor Greenfield has conducted ethnographic research in Barbados and New Bedford, Massachusetts, but mostly in Brazil, and ethnohistorical and historical research in Portugal and the Atlantic Islands. His varied research projects include family and kinship, patronage and politics, the history of plantations and plantation slavery, entrepreneurship, Spiritist surgery and healing, and syncretized Brazilian religions. He is author and/or editor of nine books, producer, director and author of five video documentaries, and has published some 150 articles and reviews in books and professional journals. He also has written on the innovative thinking of Karl Polanyi and Louis Kelso.

Neyooxet Greymorning is a political anthropologist and a full professor in the departments of Anthropology and Native American Studies. Professor Greymorning’s research interests are in Indigenous language revitalization and is published in areas of linguistic anthropology, ethnobotany, medical anthropology and political/legal anthropology across five countries, Australia, Canada, England, Germany, and the United States.



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Howard Higgs' story doesn't fit into a 'unit of competency' equivalents. He has experience in the western systems of knowledge through a, B.Mus.Ed, B.Ed, M.Ed.Admin (UNSW), MIM (UTS) Cert IV TAE40116, TAEASS502 (TAFENSW) and now a PhD (UTS). In addition to this, He has more than three decades of experience working in the NSW public school factory systems, more recently at a tertiary level through TAFE NSW, with much of this time spent teaching Gumbaynggirr students on Gumbaynggirr Country. Therefore, he has first-hand, detailed experience in observing failed systems of Aboriginal Education, or what better should be understood as, 'Indigenous Knowledge Realisation'. All his experience points to the lack of recognition and understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and the imperative requirement of learning on, from and directly, with Country in more than a superficial or tokenistic way. Jiiginy Miindala, my Gumbaynggirr practise in collaboration with his PhD candidature at UTS, is an attempt to reconcile better ways of understanding how Indigenous Knowledge Systems work and have worked through his personal experience of Aboriginal self-determination through Place within Country.

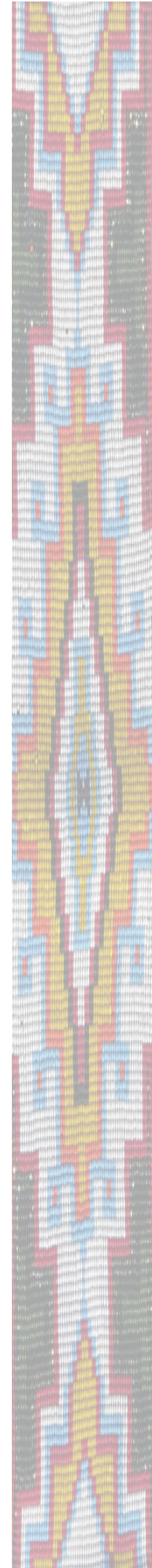
Dr. Kevin Inglesby was formally hooded by Dr. Neyooxet Greymorning in May of 2026. As a graduate of the Cultural Heritage and Applied Anthropology program at the University of Montana, he seeks to understand mechanics of self-determination across domains that include legal semiotics, international relations, and participatory action research. Kevin has been appointed the position of Director of Communications for the Federation of Aboriginal Nations of the Americas (FANA) and currently sits as the Federations First Seat Holder of the Council of Nimmuog or the legislative arm of the Federation. His doctoral work, 'Legal Semiotics, Political Ontology, & Merging Chronotopes of Identity Through the Federation of Aboriginal Nations of the Americas', explores implications of evolutions in traditional Indigenous forms of governance, resistance to hegemonic politico-legal structures, as well as features of how the nonprofit sector may be utilized as a vehicle for the protection and exchange of cultural heritage. As a freshly credentialed applied anthropologist, he is actively focused on innovative pathways to help contribute towards the advancement of Indigenous people's rights.

Dr. Stanislav Saas Ksenofontov is an Indigenous Sakha human geographer from Sakha Sire [S a · h á · S i · r á] (Sakha homelands (Republic)) in Northeastern Siberia. In their research, Stanislav aims to decolonize western science-based system of knowledge and to bring Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Dr. Ksenofontov holds a Ph.D. in human geography from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Currently, he is a postdoctoral scholar at the Arctic Center, University of Northern Iowa, USA where he examines the vulnerability of Arctic Indigenous social-ecological systems to global change drivers, namely climate change, extractivism, socio-political transformations. Other research interests include Arctic Indigenous sustainability, Arctic urbanization, Indigenous identities, infrastructural violence of Russian energy megaprojects. Other than research, Stanislav serves as an advisory board member of the NSF Navigating the New Arctic Community Office and a director of the AAG Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group.



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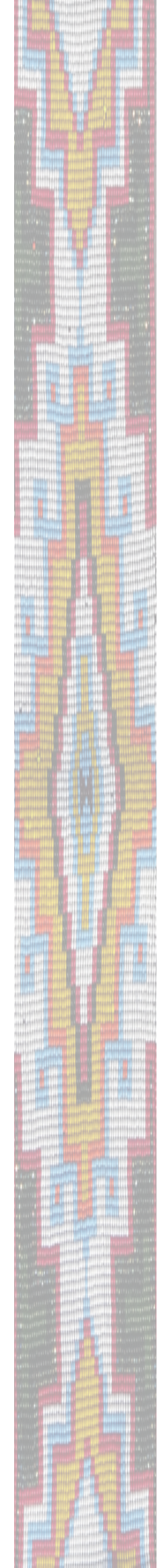


Dr. Mizuki Miyashita is a professor of linguistics and chair of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Montana. She earned her Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Arizona. She is engaged in Community-Based Research and established a network among the tribal stakeholders in the state of Montana through her Collaborative Language Planning Project. She has recorded lullabies and other songs, narratives, conversations, and isolated words in Blackfoot. Her current research focuses on the documentation and application of rhythm and melody in Blackfoot.

Dr. Annapurna Devi Pandey is a Cultural Anthropologist and teaches at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, and completed her postdoctoral research in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, UK. Her research focuses on Indigenous women's movements in Odisha and Odia immigrant women's life experiences in the diaspora. Dr. Pandey has published extensively on Indigenous women's activism, entrepreneurship, and empowerment in India, as well as on the lived experiences of Indian immigrants in the diaspora.

Dr. Alicja Boruta-Sadkowski's main research area is the development of the Belarusian literary language in the 1920s and 1930s, and the influence of the Russian and Polish languages on this development. Dr. Boruta-Sadkowski has attended numerous conferences in the Slavic field in the United States, Canada, Belarus, and the Russian Federation. She has published several articles and book reviews on the Belarusian and Russian languages and literatures. She also taught a course at the History Department (UNI) on Conflict and Justice: Russia and Its Indigenous Peoples, a popular course that fulfills the UNIFI Human Condition, Global requirement. For eight years (2018-2025) Dr. Boruta-Sadkowski taught a course on "Social Welfare" at the School of Business at Shanghai Dian Ji University. The course was a part of the exchange program between the School of Business Shanghai Dian Ji University and the Business School at the University of Northern Iowa. Currently Dr. Boruta-Sadkowski is doing research on the Indigenous People of Russia in Soviet Cinema.

Wisam A. Samara: earned his Master's degree in economics from American University in Washington, DC. Continued doctoral-level studies in Mathematical Economics and Econometrics at the University of Iowa. Taught at American University in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and at Kirkwood Community College in the Mathematics and Science Department. Previously served as Assistant Director of the Business and Economic Research Center (BERC) at the Faculty of Administrative and Economic Sciences at Al-Quds Open University. Currently serves as Director of the Samarah Institute for Economic Research. Author of several articles published in peer-reviewed academic journals and serves as a reviewer for multiple scholarly journals.



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Shay Sullivan: is a 3rd year PhD Student in the linguistics department at the University of Arizona, with a specialized track in Language Revitalization. She holds a BA in linguistics from the University of Montana and an MA in linguistics from the University of Colorado. Shay is an Irish-American woman, on a personal journey of understanding how colonialism, war and genocide within Ireland impacted the loss of the Irish language, including the resulting diaspora. Within linguistics, she has worked extensively on language documentation projects at the University of Montana & the University of Colorado. Shay has studied under Dr. Neyooxet Greymorning since 2019, where she obtained a certificate in Language Rejuvenation and Maintenance under his tutelage. She has assisted Dr. Greymorning in a dozen Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA) teacher-training workshops in many areas of the world, including North America, Australia, & Europe. Her research is primarily focused on understanding the most effective language-teaching strategies with respect to speaker-generation and wishes to share this knowledge with Indigenous groups working towards language revitalization.

Pei-Lin Yu: is a Taiwanese-American ethnoarchaeologist with 35 years' experience public and academic archaeology. She currently serves as Tribal Liaison with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Research interests center on hunter-gatherer societies and the interface with gardening and small scale farming. Her research career began among hunter-gatherers of Venezuela, and she currently studies the evolutionary role of gardening in the Neolithic onset in Taiwan, SE China, and southern Japan as this area was a crucible for the sea-faring gardening societies of Oceania. This includes ethnoarchaeology among the Amis peoples of eastern Taiwan, and behavioral ecology approaches to gardening in the broader sense. Recent publications include the article "Modeling Incipient Use of Neolithic Cultigens by Taiwanese Foragers: Perspectives from Niche Variation Theory, the Prey Choice Model, and the Ideal Free Distribution"; Archaeology on the Threshold, an edited volume concerning the archaeological study of transitions; and East Asia's Island Gardens: A Neolithic Journey, in preparation.

Dr Ekaterina Zibrova earned her PhD in Psychology) As an associate researcher at Wits Centre for Diversity Studies, University of Witwatersrand, Dr Zibrova studies Indigenous perspectives on decolonisation and the construction of Indigenous identity in Russia. Her areas of academic interest include critical diversity literacy and politics of identity. Dr Zibrova is a representative of the Evenki People (Northeast Siberia). Postdoctoral Fellow, Wits University (2023-2024); Non-Resident Fellow, Russia Program, George Washington University (2023-2024); Spencer Foundation Grantee (2025-2027); Visiting Fellow, DialogBüro Vienna Fellowship Program (2025). Also, Dr Zibrova is an independent diversity strategist and practitioner.