

# Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

## About the Conference Founder & Organizer



**Dr. Neyooxet Greymorning** earned his Ph.D. from Oklahoma University in 1992. He began his academic career at the University of Alberta and is a full professor in the departments of Anthropology and Native American Studies at the University of Montana. He has conducted language teacher training workshops in Australia, Canada, Germany, and the United States, and maintains an active research and teaching agenda that includes Indigenous sovereignty issues, *Contemporary Issues of Indigenous Peoples*, *Indigenous Health and Wellbeing*, and created a certificate for *Native Language Rejuvenation*. Professor Greymorning served as the Acting Director of the Indigenous Governance Programs at the University of Victoria in British Columbia from 2001-2002. He was also a visiting scholar at Southern Cross University in Australia, 2009 – 2012, and New England University, also in Australia, 2014, and 2018. Neyooxet’s work in developing strategies toward strengthening and sustaining Native languages led to him to develop Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA©™). He is the founder and Executive Director of Hinono'eitiino'ooowu' – Arapaho Language Lodge and was named three times to Who's Who Among America's College and University Teachers. In 2018, Dr. Greymorning was the recipient of a Life Achievement Award for his work in Anthropology, and in 2019 he delivered a President's Distinguished lecture about his work that tests dolphins for language cognition. Most recently Neyooxet's work with the Gumbaynggirr in Australia was instrumental in creating several highly proficient speakers of Gumbaynggirr that in 2022 enabled the creation of the first Indigenous language school in the state of New South Wales.



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## About the Keynote Speakers

September 2, 3, & 4, 2024



**Tyson Running Wolf** is an avid outdoorsman and an advocate for conservation of the environment to ensure generations after him will be able to enjoy the wilds. Tyson grew up with generations of men in his family teaching him about how to respect the land so the land gives back. Because of his environmental experiences, Tyson went to college and graduated with his Bachelors of Science degree in Forestry- Forest Resource Management and is currently in his Master's of Public Administration program at the University of Montana . The love of the land doesn't stop there, he has served as a Montana State Legislator for five years (currently in his 3rd term) and in that time he has drafted and supported legislation that includes protection and or respectful use land and resource management. Tyson is also connected deeply to his culture as Nitsitapii, and has learned from elders including his grandfather the cultural aspects of traditional hunting, land management and environmental sustainability. Tyson is formally a Tribal Councilmember of the Blackfeet Tribe in which he served as the Executive Secretary. He is a cultural leader of the Nitsitapii including a leader of a sacred society and bundle holder. He also is a practitioner of the culture and a lifelong learner of the culture from elders that teach him centuries of ancestral knowledge that was never lost. He is a husband, father to seven adult children, and grandfather to ten.



**Clark Webb** is a Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung man from the north coast of NSW, Australia. After commencing his learning of Gumbaynggirr as a 22-year-old in 2007 Clark has become a leading Gumbaynggirr teacher and Founder/CEO of Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation (BMNAC). Under Clark's leadership BMNAC established the first and only bilingual school of an Aboriginal language in NSW, the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School (GGFS).



**Pei-Lin Yu** is Affiliate Professor of Anthropology at Boise State University, Tribal Liaison at the Corps of Engineers, and a Fulbright Senior Fellow. Yu grew up in New Mexico in a Taiwanese-American family. Her BA degree in Anthropology is from the University of New Mexico, and Masters and PhD degrees at Southern Methodist University. Yu has worked as a federal archaeologist, museum curator, firefighter, tribal repatriation specialist, and federal science program coordinator. Yu has taught archaeology at Sacramento State University, University of Montana, and Boise State University. Her research interests center on hunting and gathering lifeways, Neolithic transitions, ethnoarchaeological research, Indigenous ecological and farming knowledge, cultural heritage values of Chinese mining communities in the American West, and climate change impacts to cultural heritage in national parks. Yu has recently worked with Amis indigenous gardeners of SE Taiwan. Publications include seven books, two edited journals, and 25 articles.



## Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society Keynote Speakers' Abstracts

Blackfeet scholar **Tyson Running Wolf** will deliver Monday's, September 2, talk;  
***Aaotoomakiis - those that walk first - the development of leadership in Blackfoot Culture***

Blackfeet ECO Knowledge's mission is to revive and preserve Indigenous traditional knowledge systems that focus on the reciprocal relationship between bio-cultural diversity, where people and the environment work together for sustainability. The goal is to ensure cultural perpetuity, to pass on this knowledge to future generations for the protection of the environment. Moreover, they aim to share this knowledge with the world to develop a better understanding of the importance of balanced and respectful human-environment interactions for the benefit of future generations..

Gumbynggirr scholar **Clark Webb**, will deliver Wednesday's September 4, talk  
***How a referendum's "No" votes Impacts Indigenous Aspirations and reveals Australia's Lingering Racist Attitudes***

In 2023 the colony of Australia held a referendum that asked Australians to vote yes to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution and create an advisory body called 'the Voice' which would make recommendations directly to parliament. The result of the referendum was a resounding no. More than 60% of the Australian population demonstrated their complete disregard for the first peoples of the continent. How does the referendum result affect Aboriginal communities politically and in terms of human rights? Importantly, how does the referendum result impact on culture and the education of our young people? It is important to note that Aboriginal children who attend mainstream schools do so knowing that 60% of their teachers don't regard them, their culture or their community enough to simply vote yes. So, who is at fault for the alarmingly low rates of school attendance among Indigenous students?

Anthropology scholar **Pei-Lin Yu** will deliver Tuesday's September 3 talk  
***Gardening Heritage Among the Amis People of Eastern Taiwan: Reflections on Food Sovereignty***

Food sovereignty is a collective and intergenerational right based on traditional knowledge and practices and the lands, waters, plants, animals, and natural cycles that sustain those practices. Since the 1600s, Taiwan's Indigenous Tribes have endured multiple waves of colonization and severe loss of their First Foods and associated knowledges. Since democratization of Taiwan in the 1980s and formal recognition in the early 2000s, young Indigenous Taiwanese are re-connecting with these knowledges, sometimes in collaboration with non-Indigenous scholars. Among the Amis people of Fafokod Village on the east coast, traditional gardening includes crops and techniques that in some cases date back thousands of years. This paper introduces Amis Indigenous gardens, their history, ecological ties with the sea and wild mountain forests, and role in food sovereignty, community resilience, and local economies. Oral history interview data revealing innovative approaches to the global market, climate change, and the tourist economy, are featured.