

## Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society About the Speakers



**Dr. Maria Beldi Alcantar** is professor and researcher of Medical Anthropology and Indigenous Wellbeing at University of Sao Paulo. Working with Indigenous Youth since 1999, mainly Guarani, Aruak. She has experienced many Indigenous communities over those years in Latin America, and is a am consultant at IWGIA.



**Alysha Edwards** is an Indigenous archaeologist based in Lillooet, B.C within the St'át'imc territory and is a doctoral graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Montana, Missoula. She holds a BA degree in anthropology from the University of Northern British Columbia and is interested in the archaeology and ethnology of the St'át'imc people (Middle Fraser Canyon area of British Columbia).



Information on **Neyooxet Greymorning**, can be read at, about conference founder and organizer.



**Dr. Rylan Higgins** teaches in and is chair of the Anthropology Department at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



**Julia Hodgins** received an MA in International Affairs from King's College London, UK - Defense Studies Department along with the Theology Associateship of King's College. Previously, she earned a Bachelor's in Sociology focused on social research and an Arts Associate – both with distinction – at the University of the Fraser Valley, Canada. Her primary interests are social policy and equality, cyber security, strategy, and decolonial studies. Currently, she is the Deputy of Research in ITSS Verona – International Team for the Study of Security and has led and conducted research and planning within the western hemisphere's private, public, and NGO sectors. Julia has authored peer-review and other publications in English and her native language Spanish. Shi is a board member in diverse causes, and a former volunteer radio and podcast producer. Julia lives on Vancouver Island, Canada, with her husband and their very spoiled cat.





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active in alumni affairs.

**Andrew Hugos** holds a BA degree in Urban Studies from the State University of New York College at Purchase with Honors in 1977. In 1988 he received the Chartered Financial Consultant and Life Underwriter designations from the American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Army Basic Training in 1990 and pursued a dual career as both a financial advisor and soldier. He received military training as an analyst, liaison and small group leader. Now retired from the military he continues his financial professional practice and is



as an active Fulbright alumna and organizer of the American Indian Workshop 2023, Budapest.

**Dr. Judit Kadar** is the Director of International Relations and associate professor at the Sports University of Budapest and the University of Pannonia, Veszprém. She has taught US and Canadian culture studies for three decades, including terms in the US (GCSU, UNM). She published *Critical Perspectives on English-Canadian Literature* (1996), *Going Indian: Cultural Appropriation in Recent North American Literature* (2012) and *Ethnic Positioning in Southwestern Mixed Heritage Writing* (Lexington, 2022) and also contributed to *The Routledge Companion to Native American Literature* (2016). She serves

**Mr. Kalyana Rao Kathi** is a Senior Research Scholar and Project Functionary / District Project Manger (DPM)-cum-Area Coordinator (AC) in Dr YSR Kanthi Velugu, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA, Prakasham District, Andhra Pradesh; and an Alumni, Department of Telugu and Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies (CALTS), School of Humanities, Central University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad - 500 046. India,



language exploration, discussion and practice. Kelly has been integral in advising on language and his expertise is sought as a consultant for community and school language programs. He has been instrumental in helping build relationships between communities and government, and he has been called on to offer his advice on language policy and legislation. As a respected language researcher, speaker, performer, and knowledge-holder, Ray is known for centering an Indigenous strengths-based approach in his ongoing contribution to Indigenous Language Ecologies.

**Dr. Raymond Kelly** is the Deputy Head of The Wollotuka Institute for Indigenous Engagement and Advancement at the University of Newcastle. As a Dhangatti and Gumbayngirr speaker, his research is centered on the recognition and revival of Indigenous languages. Through his collaborative language research with multiple Indigenous communities across Australia, he has been able to make vital connections between different Aboriginal languages as part of his revitalisation work. In 2020 he launched an innovative language program, 'Muuya Banggi', or 'flying breath' that brings together community language learners for shared



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**Dr. Longshibeni N Kithan** is an Indigenous scholar with a Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology. She wrote her thesis on the Lotha Naga tribe of Northeast India, titled "Water and Culture among the Lotha Nagas". She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Folkloristics and Tribal Studies at the Central University of Karnataka, India. She specializes in Water Anthropology and Tribal studies. Before joining CUK, she taught postgraduate level in the Department of Anthropology at North Eastern Hill University. Furthermore, she has been actively involved in advocacy and research on contemporary Tribal India, particularly the Northeastern part of India. She recently completed a project on the Resilience and Climate change adaptive mechanism among the Indigenous communities of Northeast India. Her recent publications are Transition and transmission of Lotha oral tradition (2022) and Ethnomedicinal practices of the Bhoi Khasis of Umden, Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya (2020).



**Dr. Ram Babu Mallavarapu**, until recently, he served as a Guest Faculty at the Department of Anthropology, Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput. Prior to his joining the CUO, he also served as a Guest Faculty at the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh. He studied B.Com at the Department of Commerce, Andhra Loyola College (ALC), Autonomous, Vijayawada. He completed his MA at the Department of Anthropology, and M.Phil and Ph.D at the Centre for Regional Studies, School of Social Sciences, Central University of Hyderabad (UoH), Hyderabad. He qualified University Grants Commission's (UGC's) National Eligibility Test (NET) for Assistant Professor / Lectureship in Anthropology. He served as Research Fellow at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad and Visiting Fellow at the Council for Social Development (CSD), Hyderabad. He was the recipient of two prestigious Post Doctoral Fellowships (PDFs) offered by UGC, New Delhi and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi.



**Georges De Medts** is a PhD candidate from France. After earning his Master of Arts degree at the University of Nice in 2018 with Cum Laude distinction, he spent two years at Hartwick College, NY as a Teaching assistant of French. He is currently doing his PhD work on self-representation in Native American cinema at Aix-Marseille University and currently lives in Aix-en-Provence, France. He has been a member of American Indian Workshop since 2021.





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**Dr. Tyler Pennock** is a two-spirit adoptee from a Cree and Metis family around the Lesser Slave Lake region of Alberta. Tyler is a member of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation. They graduated from Guelph University's Creative Writing MFA program in 2013. Their first Book, *BONES* (Brick Books) was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Indigenous Voices Award for Poetry, and longlisted for the Raymond Souster Award in 2021. Their second book, *BLOOD* was released in September 2022. They currently teach at the Centre for Indigenous Studies at the University of Toronto.




**Dr. Bimadoshka Pucan** is Anishinaabe from Saugeen First Nation #29. She is an assistant professor at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. Her work focuses on oral history, archival holdings, and supportive repatriation. Bimadoshka attended the University of Western Ontario obtaining her PhD in Anthropology in 2019. Her background involves Public Health, First Peoples Studies, and Psychology



**Charlotte Ross** is a registered band member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, one of three Saskatchewan Woodland Cree Th-dialect Nations. She grew up speaking and hearing Woodland Cree TH-dialect, has taught in the Plains Cree Y-dialect and understands the Swampy Cree N-dialect. Her language journey began within her home fire and continues to guide her life work today. She has been active in higher education for over thirty years working to create change within institutions. For the past decade, she has shifted her energies to building capacity within First Nation communities by reconnecting to our Indigenous languages for well being, longevity, and a return to balance. Throughout all her work, she understands it is critical to have a strong understanding of our cultural teachings to strive for balance in life.



**Dr. Ezekiel Stear** teaches in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Auburn University. He specializes in colonial-era Indigenous textual production in Mexico and Peru. He has published articles in peer-reviewed journals and chapters in edited volumes with Routledge and Vanderbilt Press. He has presented at conferences throughout North America and Europe, including LASA, the Nahuatl Studies Association, and at Bielefeld University (Germany). His current book project, *Nahua Horizons: Writing, Persuasion, and Future Paths in Colonial Mexico* with the University of Arizona Press, examines how Nahua writers after the Spanish invasion preserved futurities in writing that circumvented colonial designs for their contemporary Nahua readers and their posterity.



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**Dr. Paulette Steeves** (Cree- Metis) is an Indigenous archaeologist. She was born in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, and grew up in Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada. She received her BA in Anthropology, Honors Cum Laude, from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 2000. In 2008 Dr. Steeves was awarded the Clifford D. Clark fellowship for attending graduate studies at Binghamton University in New York State; she successfully defended her dissertation in 2015. Dr. Steeves has taught courses on Native American and First Nations histories and the decolonization of academia. She is an Associate Professor in Sociology- Anthropology, the Chair of Geography Geology, and Land Stewardship at Algoma University and a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous History Healing and Reconciliation. Dr. Steeves's research is focused on the Indigenous Paleolithic of the Western Hemisphere; Dr. Steeves argues that Indigenous peoples were present in the Western Hemisphere as early as 130,000 years before the present and possibly much earlier.



**Shay Sullivan** holds a Bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Montana (UM) accompanied by a post-secondary certificate in language rejuvenation and maintenance. She is currently a Masters Student in linguistics at the University of Colorado, Boulder (CU). Shay has been mentored extensively under Dr. Neyooxet Greymorning, the developer of Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA®); with Dr. Greymorning, she has assisted seven language teacher training workshops for his method of teaching language in several communities ranging from Alaska to Germany, as well as Australia. Shay is primarily interested in the strategies that communities employ to revitalize their heritage language, specifically language-teaching strategies and how these can be improved. Additionally, her interests lie with engaging linguists in her field to be more directly involved in language revitalization efforts, in a positive and productive way.