



Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Planning Committee

In 2021, having planned, fund raised, organized and facilitated the RIVA conference, on the last day, Sunday September 5, the question was raised whether there should be a second conference in 2022. When everyone definitively said yes, I asked for volunteers to help with the planning. I would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for graciously volunteering their time, twice a month, and for the countless hours from October 2021 to September 2022, of planning that helped make the RIVAS 2022 conference possible.



Dr. Regna Darnell is an American-Canadian anthropologist and professor of Anthropology and First Nations Studies at the University of Western Ontario, where she has founded the First Nations Studies Program. Regna is known for her linguistic anthropological fieldwork with the Plains [Cree](#) of northern [Alberta](#) and with southwestern [Ontario](#) First Nations peoples as well as for her scholarship on the history of anthropology. Notable for her extensive contributions towards anthropology as a field of study, numerous awards and certifications have been presented in honor of her prestigious input



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).



Dr. Hannah Gibbs is an anthropological archaeologist completing postgraduate study at University College London and a researcher with Extreme Citizen Science: Analysis and Visualisation (EcSanVis). Her work deploys story-trekking and collaborative mapping to highlight how Indigenised and community-directed recording and management of cultural landscapes provides equal benefit to local communities, specialists, and environments.



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Dr. Marwan Kilani earned a MPhil (2012) and DPhil (2017) in Ancient Near Eastern Studies from the University of Oxford. Worked as director for two research projects sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation focusing on interactions between imperial and Indigenous realities in the ancient Near East. Currently exploring how historical imperial and colonial experiences shape the social landscape of a region over the centuries. Author of two monographs and various academic articles on linguistic and socio-historical issues in the Ancient Near East.



Dr. Lisa K. Neuman is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies at the University of Maine, with specialties in the history of Native American education, indigenous representations in art, tribal sovereignty and economic enterprise, the politics of Indianness, and (a new interest in) multispecies entanglements. While Natalie is my graduate student, she more often than not is my teacher.



Sawsan Samara earned a MSc in Social Anthropology (2012), and Certificate in International Human Rights Law (2014) from Oxford University. Sawsan worked in the Middle East for 7 years in the humanitarian and development sectors, with a focus on Indigenous people, refugees, and then racial discrimination, and apartheid. Currently, she is working on Palestinian Indigenousness and their systemitised racial segregation, in addition to documenting the history and heritage of Nisf Jubeil: a Palestinian village. Sawsan has also Published a book chapter on Scottish “othering” in Anthropology.



Wisam A. Samarah earned a Masters in Economics from American University in Washington DC. Moved to The University of Iowa completing Ph.D. level Mathematical Economics and Econometrics. Taught at American University in Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and at Kirkwood Community College in the Mathematics and Science Department. Currently an Assistant Director to the Business and Economics Research Center (BERC) in the Faculty of Administrative & Economic Sciences at Al Quds Open University. Published a number of articles in academic peer-reviewed journals.



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About the Conference Founder



Dr. Neyooxet Greymorning earned his Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma in 1992. He began his academic career at the University of Alberta, and is now 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 developing Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA^{©™}). He is the founder and Executive Director of Hinono'eitiino'oowu' – 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.