Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Speakers

Adam Albarghouthi is a Palestinian currently residing in Montreal. He graduated with a BSc in Computer Science from McGill University and has been working as a software engineer for the last six years. He was one of the first members to establish the Palestinian Social Fund in 2020, which has partnered with the Popular Art Centre in Ramallah to financially support agricultural cooperatives on the ground. Adam is also a member of the Palestinian Youth Movement where he's involved in community organizing in Montreal.

Dr. Erika Díaz-Almeyda is an Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at New College of Florida. Broadly, her research explores microbial symbioses under stress (climate change) and under healthy management practices. Her projects are embedded in frameworks of community- and place-based research to advance social equity by including local stakeholders, particularly Indigenous and sustainable land/water managers.

Walaa Alqaisiya is a Marie Curie Global Fellow working across: Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), Columbia University in the City of New York (USA) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK). She received her PhD in Human Geography from Durham University (UK), and worked as a Teaching Fellow in Gender, Sexuality and Conflict at the Department of Gender Studies, LSE. Her forthcoming book 'Decolonial Queering in Palestine' examines queer politics and aesthetics from a Palestinian native positionality. Walaa's Marie Curie Fellowship extends her work on settler colonialism, decoloniality and gender whilst bringing an ecological and environmental dimension to these fields. It draws on multiple locales of indigeneity (i.e., Turtle Island, Palestine) to examine comparable historical and political processes of colonial ecocidal violence and the value of Indigene's decolonial ecologies.

Remy Bahr is an Inupiaq scholar studying biochemistry and microbiology at the University of Maine. He has investigated climate change in the Arctic Circle via permafrost cores, and radiometrically dated archaeologically significant soil cores from Utqiaġvik, Alaska, to help reconstruct Inupiat migration patterns. Remy is fascinated by the ancient bacteria found in thawing permafrost, and how Traditional Ecological Knowledge can remedy the intersecting pathogenic impacts on human, animal, and environmental health."

Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Speakers

Dr. George E. Bisharat was a trial lawyer for the Office of the Public Defender in San Francisco before joining the UC Hastings 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. 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. Professor Bisharat is a blues musician specializing in the chromatic harmonica, and as "Big Harp George" has recorded four albums that earned award nominations and international critical acclaim.

Jason Brough is a Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation Tribal Member. He is also achieving his lifelong goal of obtaining a PhD through the University of Maine's Anthropology and Environmental Policy Program. Jason works for the Wabanaki Youth in Science program and the Penobscot Nation Traditional Ecological Knowledge program. His background in Indigenous Archaeology and teachings from the Elders has served him well in protecting the ancestors; particularly with his involvement in honoring the Bear River Massacre Site or Boa Ogoi where he will serve as Cultural Advisor/Content Curator for the Bear River Massacre Cultural Center. He also serves on the Daigwade Internal Advisory Board.

Madison Brown is an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and hails from Tulsa, OK. She received her B.S. in Physics and Mathematics from Baker University in 2018, where she minored in creative writing and health humanities. She is currently an MA English student at the University of Maine where she's completing a creative thesis. Her research interests include creative writing and Indigenous and Native North American literature with an emphasis in magical realism, postmodernism, and digital humanities. Madison most enjoys interdisciplinary studies where her STEM education informs her research and writing.

Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Speakers

Ellie Bucannan is a Gumbaynggirr woman, living and raising my son on Gumbaynggirr Country. I have a background in Early Childhood and am working towards my primary education degree. Currently, I am proudly working in the role of Gumbaynggirr Language Teacher at the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom school. I have been involved with a dedicated community of learners and speakers of Gumbaynggirr for the past 4 years. Without them and the use of the ASLA method developed by Dr. Neyooxet Greymorning I would not be in my position today. Ensuring our children are Gumbaynggirr Daari (strong) is my passion. Strong in culture, language, education, within themselves, and within the world."

Dr. Zaina Jallad Charpentier (Keynote Speaker) is the first female J.S.D. graduate at Columbia Law School from the Arab region. She completed her J.S.D. with the Highest Distinction. Currently she is an academic fellow at Harvard University. Zaina is a legal consultant, researcher, and educator with an intersectional focus on the law. Her body of work reflects her wide-ranging experience in the fields of international law, human rights, social justice, rule of law and gender justice. Recognized as the youngest Law graduate by the University of Jordan (2004), Zaina also holds an LL.M from Columbia University (2008). She is a member of both the Palestinian Bar Association (2004) and the New York City Bar (2012). She is a recipient of the Palestinian Presidential Golden Medal (2021).

Glen Coulthard (Keynote Speaker) is Yellowknives Dene and an associate professor in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program and the Departments of Political Science at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014), winner of the 2016 Caribbean Philosophical Association's Frantz Fanon Award for Outstanding Book, the Canadian Political Science Association's CB Macpherson Award for Best Book in Political Theory, published in English or French, in 2014/2015, and the Rik Davidson Studies in Political Economy Award for Best Book in 2016. He is also a co-founder of Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, a decolonial, Indigenous land-based post-secondary program operating on his traditional territories in Denendeh(Northwest Territories).

Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Speakers

Nadine Fattaleh is a Palestinian writer and researcher from Amman, Jordan. She previously worked on projects at the Center for Spatial Research, Studio-X Amman, and MMAG Foundation. In 2021-2, she was the OSUN Fellow in Human Rights and the Arts at Bard College. She is currently a PhD student in Media, Culture and Communications at New York University. Nadine is a member of the Palestinian Social Fund, as well as the editorial collective of Science for the People Magazine.

Andrea Vasquez Fernandez earned her MSc. (2015) in the University of British Columbia and currently is a PhD candidate in Indigenous Studies also at UBC. She holds a B.Sc. in Forest Engineering (2007) and a diploma (2010) on Environmental Management, Quality, and Auditing both from Peru's National Agrarian University of La Molina. Andrea is Quechua-Andean and was invited in 2012 by Amazonian Asheninka and Yine Peoples to form an alliance with them. She is a part of a pluri-cultural research team, which is also formed by Asheninka and Yine community members. Together, using Indigenous theories and methodologies in power-shared projects are committed to conduct collaboratively community-led endeavors to address communities' concerns and desired futures. Currently they are conducting a project called '**RESPECT-AMAZONIA**.'

Mirtha Garcia is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change. She was born in Mexico but raised in Arizona and she herself has experience navigating the immigration system in the United States. She is currently researching the experience of trans individuals (migrant and non-migrants) who are living in Spain, specifically Valencia, to help create academic work that can help trans communities. She holds an M.A. in Visual Anthropology from the University of Southern California where she completed a 30-minute ethnographic film on trans Latina immigrant women's identity and femininity, transnationally.

Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society

About the Speakers

Nacira Guénif. Being raised as an Algerian girl in France after the end of the anticolonial struggles and the foundation of an Algerian Nation-State, I have since then become bi-national and live in France. I was trained as a sociologist and anthropologist at University Paris Descartes, EHESS and Sciences Po Paris. I am professor at University Paris 8 Vincennes – Saint-Denis and a member of the LEGS, a research center of CNRS. My research focuses on the colonial present of France and Europe and its translations and iterations in public discourses and public policies, specifically through racialization and sexualisation, as well as its counter narratives, including among academics from minority background. My latest publications address State racism and feminist colored academic activism in France.

Tanu Gupta is a Research Scholar in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Jammu. She is working on the Folklores of Nomadic Tribe of Jammu and Kashmir - Gujjars and Bakerwals- as part of her Doctoral Thesis. Her areas of interest include Cultural Studies, Ecocriticism, Human-Animal Studies. She is currently part of a project titled "A Literary, Socio-Cultural and Linguistic Study of Tribal World: Setting up Gujjar & Bakerwal Repository" sanctioned by Tribal Affairs Department, Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, India. The objective of the project is collection, transcreation, and dissemination of folklore, linguistic deterministic analysis of language and related languages, socio-cultural study of issues, grievances and policies of the Scheduled Tribes located in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Julia Hodgins received an MA in International Affairs from King's College London - Defence Studies Department and earned a BA with distinction from the University of the Fraser Valley, Canada, majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Social Research. Her research interests are social policy and equality, cyber security, strategy, interculturality, and decolonial studies. Currently, Deputy of Research in ITSS Verona (International Team for the Study of Security), Julia has working experience in the private, public, and NGO sectors across the western hemisphere, is a contributor to academic publications and blogs, board member in Colectiva Antirracista Disidencia Tusán and Vancouver Latin American Film Festival; and is also a former volunteer radio and podcast producer. Canadian of Peruvian origin, she lives in Vancouver Island with her husband and their spoiled cat.