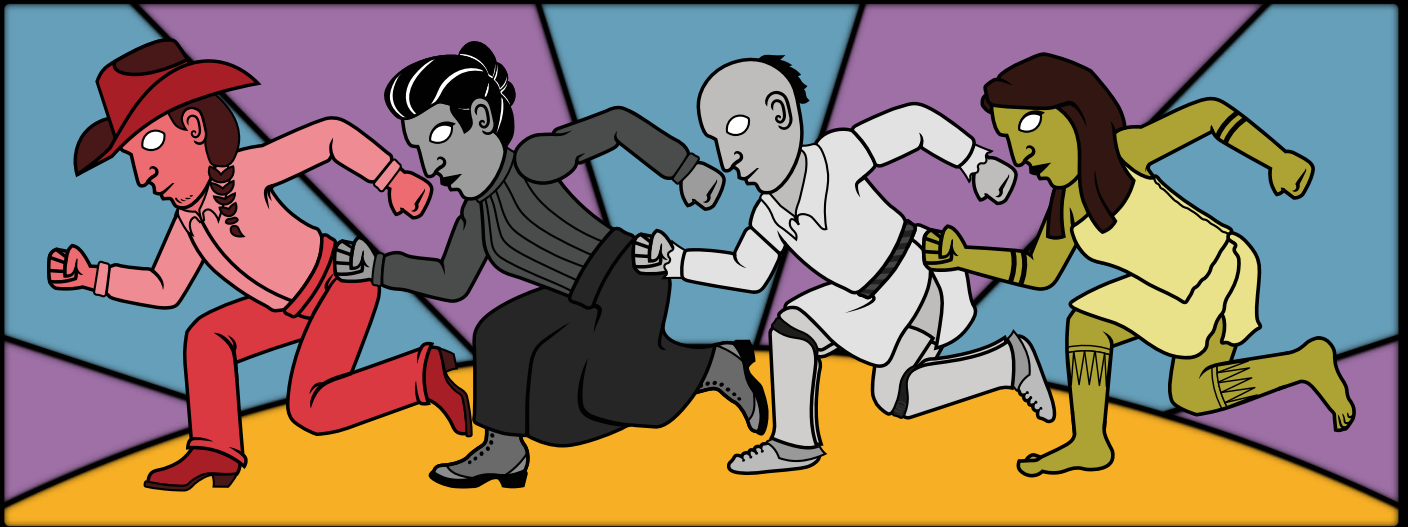


51ST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE
AMERICAN INDIAN



**INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS SPEAK ON SOVEREIGNTY:
100 YEARS AFTER THE INDIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT**

APRIL 15 - 20, 2024 - NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY - TAHLEQUAH, OK



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

• 51ST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN •

INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS SPEAK ON SOVEREIGNTY: 100 YEARS AFTER THE INDIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT

This year's theme seeks to provide a platform for today's Indigenous Scholars to share their perspectives on sovereignty, Indigenizing education and scholarship, as well as highlighting the Indian Citizenship Act which was passed in 1924. Tribal sovereignty has been at the forefront of discussions in higher education and in the media since the Supreme Court McGirt ruling. Similarly, we have seen an increase in the number of institutions adopting land acknowledgments, revising curriculum and practices to include more Indigenous knowledge, and those who have forged/ are forging more genuine and reciprocal partnerships with Tribes. The primary goal of the Symposium is to broaden the audience perspectives on these topics which are especially relevant to our Tribal communities. Topics specifically addressed by the keynote scholars include history, law and literature.

SAVE THE DATE!
52nd Annual Symposium on the American Indian
April 2025

51ST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE
AMERICAN INDIAN



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CONTENTS

5-16.....Symposium Sessions
17NSU Powwow
18.....Keynote Speakers
BACK.....Sponsors



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Rodney Hanley, *President*

Dr. Carla Swearingen, *Provost/Vice-President for Academic Affairs*

Melody Proctor, *Interim Director, Center for Tribal Studies*

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

In 1972, a program of distinguished Native American lecturers was presented on the Northeastern State University campus, laying the foundation for what has become the Annual Symposium on the American Indian. The symposium, nationally known in the Native American academic community, attracts visitors from across the United States and includes a growing number of international visitors each year. The symposium employs an interdisciplinary approach to examining historic and contemporary topics such as sovereignty, environmental issues within tribal contexts, Native language revitalization, health and social well-being and the persistence of Indigenous peoples within the global society.

Funding has been provided by the Oklahoma Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts, Oklahoma Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities and Center for Tribal Studies NASNTI grant.

H AMERICAN INDIAN
Heritage COMMITTEE

Thank you to the American Indian Heritage Committee and Center for Tribal Studies staff for your continued support and dedication for the Annual Symposium on the American Indian.

This program is funded in part by the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the OHC or NEH.

This project was supported in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council, which receives support from the state of Oklahoma and the National Endowment for the Arts.



SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS

Monday, April 15

Monday | April 15 | 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Redbud Room (3rd Floor)

Native Student Awards Banquet (Invitation Only, RSVP Required)

Opportunity for our Native students to honor and recognize one another and celebrate their achievements.

Topic Area: Special Event

Tuesday, April 16

Tuesday | April 16 | 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Webb Auditorium

Storytelling: Turtle Island Liars' Club

Join us for a night of Cherokee storytelling.

Topic Area: Special Event



Wednesday, April 17

Wednesday | April 17 | 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Ballroom (2nd Floor)

Opening Ceremony & Keynote Presentation | Hosted by the Native American Student Association

Emcee: Gaelen Rose (Cherokee), Student Engagement Coordinator, Center for Tribal Studies NASNTI

Presentation of Colors: NSU ROTC

Head Singer: Noah Shadlow (Osage)

Welcome: Dr. Rodney Hanley, NSU President

Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma: Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians: Joe Bunch

Introduction of Speaker: Leighton Bearpaw (Cherokee Nation), NASA President

The Future of Oklahoma and Indian Country after McGirt v. Okla.

Robert Miller J.D. (Eastern Shawnee)

Professor Miller will discuss the McGirt Vs Oklahoma Supreme Court Ruling and its continuing impact on Tribal Nations, the state of Oklahoma and at the national level. The talk will also briefly discuss the consequences of the Indian Citizenship Act passed nearly 100 years ago.

Topic Area: Opening & Keynote, Sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities and National Endowment for the Humanities

Wednesday | April 17 | 10:30 - 10:50 a.m.

Ballroom (2nd Floor)

Miller Book Signing: "A Promise Kept"

Wednesday | April 17 | 11 - 11:50 a.m.

222 (2nd Floor)

Stoking a Fire: Student Presentations on Cherokee Language

Dr. Candessa Tehee (Cherokee Nation), Associate Professor of Cherokee and Indigenous Studies at Northeastern State University; NSU Undergraduate Students: Ray Miller (Cherokee Nation); Kynze Ross (Cherokee Nation); Melissa Whitekiller (Cherokee Nation); Liam McAlpin (Cherokee Nation)

In this session, the students will lead presentations on Cherokee language designed to increase learning and promote real world, everyday use of Cherokee language by learners.

Topic Area: Language Revitalization

Wednesday | April 17 | 11 - 11:50 a.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

Abolition is Red: Indigenous Social Movement Art Against the Carceral State

Dr. Michelle Brown (Cherokee)

From Red Nation to NDN Collective, and through a set of recorded interviews with Catawba, Lakota, Diné and Cherokee movement artists, questions of abolition mark temporal and spatial connections that open up past and future anti-colonial horizons.

Topic Areas: Cultural Preservation, Community Building, Indigenous Knowledge, Art, Justice

Wednesday | April 17 | 11 - 11:50 a.m.

Ballroom Lounge (2nd Floor)

Indigenous Sonic Agency

Nathan Young (Pawnee Nation/Kiowa Tribe/Delaware Tribe of Indians/Cherokee Nation)

Indigenous Sonic Agency is the empowerment of Indigenous communities to control and shape their auditory expressions, reclaiming sound as a means of cultural representation and identity, challenging historical misrepresentations.

Topic Areas: Indigenous Knowledge, Art

Wednesday | April 17 | 1 - 1:50 p.m.

222 (2nd Floor)

Regaining Cherokee Sovereignty Through the Preservation of our Language on the Remember the Removal Bike Ride

Kayce O'Field (Cherokee), RTRLA President; Macie Sullateskee-Crowe (Cherokee), RTRLA Vice-President; Shadow Hardbarger (Cherokee), RTRLA Treasurer; Amaiya Bearpaw (Cherokee), RTRLA Secretary; Charli Barnoskie (Cherokee), RTRLA Activities Coordinator; Trey Pritchett (Cherokee), RTRLA Activities Coordinator; Will Chavez Jr. (Cherokee), RTRLA Public Relations

Cherokee leaders believe to remain a true sovereign Native nation. The tribe must retain its language and ensure it is spoken by not only elders but youth as well.

Topic Areas: Indigenous Leadership, Cultural Preservation, Tribal Sovereignty, Education, History (from an Indigenous perspective), Language Revitalization

Wednesday | April 17 | 1 - 1:50 p.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

*ᎠᎵᎠ ᎠᎩᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ **The Cherokee Medicine Keepers: Voices for the Land***

Dr. Clint Carroll (Cherokee Nation), Associate Professor in Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder and 2024 Sequoyah Fellow; Phyllis Edwards (Cherokee), Translation Specialist; John Ross (Cherokee Nation), Translator Specialist for Cherokee Nation Language Center; Anna Sixkiller (Cherokee), Fluent Speaker and Translator

The Cherokee Medicine Keepers are an incorporated group of fluent-speaking Cherokee elders in Oklahoma whose mission is to preserve and perpetuate Cherokee knowledge of flora, fauna and sacred places within the Cherokee Nation. They also serve as an advisory board to the Cherokee Nation Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources (OSNR) for the tribe's ethnobotanical projects, which include the seed bank program, the heirloom garden and native plant area at the tribal complex in Tahlequah, and the Medicine Keepers Preserve—an 800-acre tract of tribal land in Adair County that was designated as the Cherokee Nation's first cultural conservation area in 2022. This panel will feature their voices and perspectives on this work as well as their overall goals to protect Cherokee lands and perpetuate Cherokee environmental knowledge. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Clint Carroll, who, along with OSNR staff, has served as a facilitator to the group since its inception in 2008.

Topic Area: Environmental Justice

Wednesday | April 17 | 2 - 2:50 p.m.

222 (2nd Floor)

Indigenous Students in Higher Education: A Narrative Account

Dr. Steven Byers (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma), Associate Professor of Psychology at Northeastern State University

Narrative methods, seldom utilized in such research provides a rich contextual accounting of what works and what limits Indigenous pursuits in higher education. This presentation explores assimilation and enculturation along with collectivism as identity markers that educational institutions founded and operative in individualism and career models need to be deconstructed and modified in order to enhance low stress and efficacious experiences for Indigenous persons in higher education.

Topic Areas: Community Building, Education, Indigenous Knowledge

Wednesday | April 17 | 2 - 2:50 p.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

Indigenous Sustainability

Jenna Makes Good (Spirit Lake Nation), 2023 CNAY Brave Heart Fellow

This presentation will introduce new or old ideas of sustainability into the modern indigenous lifestyle. It contains useful information for both urban and city natives to learn about how they can fit different practices into their lives. We will also open up the floor for further brainstorming and discussion. Attendees are crucial when it comes to providing insight pertaining to the area, as well as past experiences and knowledge.

Topic Area: Sustainability

Wednesday | April 17 | 2 - 2:50 p.m.

Ballroom Lounge (2nd Floor)

Chahta Anumpa: The Building of a Language

Jason Felihkatubbe (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)

The development and evolution of the Choctaw language.

Topic Area: History (from an Indigenous perspective), Indigenous Knowledge, Anthropology

Wednesday | April 17 | 3 - 3:50 p.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

Indigenous Environmental Network: Protecting Mother Earth, a Discussion

Kaleb Proctor (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians)

Presenter will provide an overview of the Indigenous Environmental Network, provide links to resources IEN has published, and share story to take to the Protecting Mother Earth conference.

Topic Area: Indigenous Leadership, Community Building, Education, Indigenous Knowledge, Environmental Justice

Wednesday | April 17 | 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Ballroom (2nd Floor)

Language Revitalization in Film

Christopher Cote (Osage/Penobscot), NSU Student; Talee Redcorn (Osage); Braxton Redeagle (Osage), Director of Osage Language Department; Janis Carpenter (Osage), Teacher

This will be a panel of those who worked on the Osage language for the film "Killers of the Flower Moon."

Topic Area: Cultural Preservation, Tribal Sovereignty, Language Revitalization

Thursday, April 18

Thursday | April 18 | 9 - 9:50 a.m.

222 (2nd Floor)

Soft Power: Proclaiming Tribal Sovereignty through Visual Arts

America Meredith (Cherokee Nation), Publishing Editor; Stacy Pratt (Mvskoke), PhD, Contributing Editor, First American Art Magazine; Amber DuBoise-Shepherd (Navajo/Sac & Fox/Prairie Band Potawatomi), Artist, Assistant to the Director at the University of Oklahoma School of Visual Arts.

Native artists serve as ambassadors for their tribal nations, exerting soft power by conveying district histories and worldviews. Three case studies explore strategies artists and tribes employ to support sovereignty.

Topic Areas: Cultural Preservation, Tribal Sovereignty, Education, Art

Thursday | April 18 | 9 - 9:50 a.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

Inspirational Intelligence: A Narrative for Native Resilience

Lori Riner (Pawnee), Author and Leadership Consultant; Justin Riner (Pawnee), Educator and High School Advisor, Crossover Preparatory School; Taylor Riner (Pawnee), Artist, Writer, and Musician

The potential of the Inspirational Intelligence leadership model in building resilient Indigenous leaders and communities will be explored, providing historical context and perspectives from Native scholars in art and education.

Topic Areas: Indigenous Leadership, Community Building, Education, Art

Thursday | April 18 | 9 - 9:50 a.m.

Ballroom Lounge (2nd Floor)

The Rehoboth Mission School at Atoka

Jason Felihkatubbe (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)

Education in the Choctaw Nation.

Topic Areas: Education, History (from an Indigenous perspective)

Thursday | April 18 | 10 - 10:50 a.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

Networking Opportunity

Opportunity for presenters, students, faculty, staff and community members to network.



Thursday | April 18 | 11 - 11:50 a.m.

222 (2nd Floor)

NAGPRA Groundwork for Healing: Sovereign Pasts, Presents, and Futures

Jordan Poorman Cocker (Kiowa), Curator of Indigenous Art; Kalya Fay Barnoski (Cherokee Nation enrollee, Muscogee Creek descent), Assistant Curator of Native American Art: Philbrook Museum, Evan Mathis, Director of Collections at the Museum of the Cherokee People, Lizz Toombs (Cherokee Nation) Tribal Historical Preservation Office, Cherokee Nation, and Christina Burk

The panel will offer reflections on the past, present moment and collective future of museums in relation to modalities of collective healing informed by the new NAGPRA regulations announced in January 2024.

Topic Area: Indigenous Leadership, Cultural Preservation, Tribal Sovereignty, Community Building, Indigenous Knowledge, Anthropology, Art

Thursday | April 18 | 11 - 11:50 a.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

Literary Sovereignty: Integrating Native Literature in Higher Education Classrooms

Morgen Cloud (Cherokee Nation and Delaware Tribe of Indians)

There is a plethora of indigenous literature that represents the cultures of indigenous peoples. These perspectives are needed in literature classrooms. I present a short pedagogy to Native literature.

Topic Areas: Tribal Sovereignty, Education, Literature

Thursday | April 18 | 1 - 1:50 p.m.

Ballroom (2nd Floor)

Keynote Presentation Hosted by NSU American Indigenous Business Leaders

Homesteading Indian Country: American Indians, Land, and the American Dream

Dr. Kasey Keeler (Tuolumne Band Me-Wuk Tribal citizen)

In "Homesteading Indian Land: Assimilation, Race, and Citizenship in Indian Country," Dr. Keeler examines the complex and intertwined nature of race and citizenship in early land-based policies across the United States. In particular, she gives close attention to the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Allotment Act of 1887 and the ways American Indians were first excluded from land ownership and then targeted for dispossession through fee-simple ownership. For both policies and time periods, Dr. Keeler looks at the way citizenship was simultaneously denied to American Indian people and how citizenship operated as a stand in for race. In doing so, she demonstrates how land-based policies of the nineteenth century have come to undergird how we think about land and housing contemporarily and the complicated legacies of who has access to each today.

Topic Area: Opening & Keynote, Sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities and National Endowment for the Humanities

Thursday | April 18 | 2 - 2:30 p.m.

Ballroom (2nd Floor)

Book Signing with Dr. Kasey Keeler "American Indians and the American Dream"

Thursday | April 18 | 2 - 2:50 p.m.

222 (2nd Floor)

Teaching Indigenous History in a K-12 Setting

Jon Ross (Cherokee/Navajo)

This presentation advocates for integrating Indigenous history into public education, emphasizing its transformative power, ethical responsibility and broader educational benefits. It provides insights and tools for effective implementation.

Topic Area: Education

Thursday | April 18 | 2 - 2:50 p.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

Rising Voices Presentation and Discussion

Kaleb Proctor (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians)

The presentation will provide an overview of Rising Voices, key points from previous workshops, and a discussion with attendees to share story for the 12th Rising Voices conference.

Topic Area: Indigenous Leadership, Sustainability, Community Building, Education, Environmental Justice

Thursday | April 18 | 3 - 3:50 p.m.

222 (2nd Floor)

Leveraging Educational Sovereignty in STEAM Fields Starts with Us: Exploring Scholastic eSports Education within Indian Country

Kelly Berry (Apache Tribe of Oklahoma), Indigenous Initiatives Research Associate; Cornel Pewewardy (Comanche/Kiowa), Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Central Oklahoma

This workshop will explore eSports and how they unfold in educational systems throughout Indian Country with discourse of how eSports develop 21st Century skills and infuse Indigenous ways of knowing.

Topic Areas: Indigenous Leadership, Education, Indigenous Knowledge

Thursday | April 18 | 3 - 3:50 p.m.

223 (2nd Floor)

***“It Wasn’t the School, It Was The People”*: Sharing the Stories of Native Graduate Students at a NASNTI**

Dr. Sky Wildcat (Cherokee Nation/Mvskoke)

This presentation will share how Native graduate students experienced challenges, resilience, resistance and community at a Native American Serving NonTribal Institution.

Topic Area: Education

Thursday | April 18 | 4 - 4:50 p.m.

Ballroom (2nd Floor)

A Screening and Discussion of “Cherokee Stickmaker”, featuring Cherokee National Treasure David Comingdeer

Chris Teuton (Cherokee Nation), Professor and Chair of American Indian Studies at University of Washington; Jeff Corntassel (Cherokee Nation), Professor, University of Victoria, Cherokee Nation

“Cherokee Stickmaker” (2023) is a documentary short featuring Cherokee National Treasure David Comingdeer discussing his process of becoming a stickball stick maker and the importance of perpetuating Cherokee cultural traditions intergenerationally. The film was produced and directed by Dr. Chris Teuton and Dr. Jeff Corntassel, who will present the film and discuss its creation and message with the audience.

Topic Areas: Cultural Preservation, Indigenous Knowledge, Art

Friday, April 19 (Virtual Sessions)

Friday | April 19 | 9 - 9:50 a.m.

Zoom

Indigenous Language Resurgence

Miana Fay (Oglala Lakota and Sahiyela); Kaleb Proctor (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians)

A conversation to collaborate on revitalizing and sustaining Lakota, Keetoowah, & Mvskoke languages for future generations.

Topic Areas: Cultural Preservation, Education, Language Revitalization

Friday | April 19 | 10 - 10:50 a. m

Zoom

"I Still Don't Feel Like I Know What I'm Doing": De-mystifying and Discussing the Experiences of Native Doctoral Students

Dr. Sky Wildcat (Cherokee Nation/Mvskoke); James Wagnon (Cherokee Nation), Graduate Research Assistant, University of Oklahoma; McKalee Steen (Cherokee Nation) , PhD. Candidate, University of California, Berkeley; April Yazza (Dine/Zuni), PhD. Cohort Scholar, University of New Mexico; Jade Vann (Cherokee Nation), PhD. Candidate, University of Arkansas; Terry Chavis (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), PhD. Candidate, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Reflecting on a century of legal recognition, the panelists aim to demystify and discuss doctoral education from their lived experiences as first-gen Native doctoral students.

Topic Area: Education

Friday | April 19 | 11 - 11:50 a.m.

Zoom

Tó éí ííńá: Arizona v. Navajo Nation and Diné Water Rights

Summer Powell (Diné (Navajo))

Tó éí ííńá: Arizona v. Navajo Nation and Diné Water Rights is presenting about the recent U.S. Supreme Court case, Arizona v. Navajo Nation, and my relationship to this case.

Topic Area: Environmental Justice

Friday | April 19 | 1:00-1:50pm

Zoom

Lost Among the Skeletons: Mapping the potential for live oak ghost forests in Southeast Louisiana & exploring cultural losses

Rachel Billiot (enrolled United Houma Nation, mixed Houma and Chitimacha descent)

Explore the biocultural importance of live oak forests for Indigenous communities in southeast Louisiana and how relationships to these forests could be affected by saltwater intrusion.

Topic Areas: Indigenous Knowledge, Environmental Justice

Friday | April 19 | 2 - 5 p.m.

Beta Field

Social Stickball (weather permitting)

Join us for a Symposium favorite, social stickball! Co-hosted by the NSU Native student organizations.

Topic Area: Traditional Games



NSU POWWOW

Saturday, April 20

Saturday | April 20 | 2 - 11 p.m.

Event Center

2 p.m. Gourd Dancing

5 p.m. Dinner Break

6 p.m. Resume Gourd Dancing

7 p.m. Grand Entry

Christopher Cote (Osage/Penobscot), Head Man

Chloe Tyner (Shawnee), Head Lady

John Arkeketa (Otoe Missouriia), Head Singer

Kelly Anquoe (Kiowa/Cherokee), Arena Director

Billy Flint (Cherokee), Head Gourd

Archie Mason (Osage/Cherokee), MC

Topic Area: Powwow

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Robert Miller, J.D.

Robert Miller (Eastern Shawnee) is a legal scholar, specializing in Federal Indian law among other legal topics. Elected to the American Philosophical Society in 2014, his publications and experience includes teaching, research and practice. Most of this work is centered Indian law issues across the United States and other countries. His most recent publication “A Promise Kept” explores the circumstances and implications of *McGirt v. Oklahoma* from a legal and historical context. Miller’s keynote presentation will focus on this book, but will also highlight the impact of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.



Dr. Kasey Keeler

Dr. Kasey Keeler (Tuolumne Band Me-Wuk Tribal citizen) has her Ph.D. in American Studies and is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, teaching in both American Indian Studies and the Civil Society and Community Studies programs. Her research is focused on federal Indian policy, land and dispossession, placemaking and contemporary issues impacting American Indians. Her debut book, “American Indians and the American Dream” was published this year. Her keynote will examine the complex and intertwined nature of race and citizenship in early land-based policies across the United States.





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