

DECOLONIZING RESEARCH



CHRIS FINLEY
USC Dornsife



REBECCA HERNANDEZ
UC Santa Cruz



LORIENE ROY
University of Texas, Austin



SHAWN WILSON
University of British Columbia, Okanagan

A Conversation with INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS

Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 6 p.m.
Live via Zoom
University of Southern California

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

In a roundtable discussion, Indigenous scholars Chris Finley, Rebecca Hernandez, Loriene Roy, and Shawn Wilson will consider how research shapes Native peoples' paths through academia and their complicated history with systems of information and education.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

CHRIS FINLEY (Colville Confederated Tribes) is a Native Studies professor at USC Dornsife. Her research, writing, and teaching critique how dominant U.S. popular culture sexualizes Native bodies as culturally and, therefore, racially unable to conform to white heteroreproductive norms.

REBECCA HERNANDEZ (Mescalero/Warm Springs Apache) is the community archivist at the UC Santa Cruz University Library, where she partners with local stakeholders to promote the acquisition, preservation, and use of archival materials that document the communities of Santa Cruz County.

LORIENE ROY (Anishinabe, enrolled on the White Earth Reservation, and a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe) is a professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas, Austin. Her writing, research, and service are centered on Indigenous cultural heritage development. She was the first Native American president of the American Library Association (in 2007).

SHAWN WILSON (Opaskwayak Cree Nation) is an associate professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan. He applies Indigenous research methodologies into applied Indigenous community contexts, including the revitalization of traditional methodologies and practices.

WAYS OF PRODUCING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

There are many ways to produce and share knowledge, and in many cases, scholars can make meaningful choices throughout the process. For example, here are a few choices made by Shawn Wilson, Andrea V. Breen, and Lindsay DuPré in editing the anthology *Research and Reconciliation: Unsettling Ways of Knowing through Indigenous Relationships*.

- Allowing variation in spelling and terms across different chapters by different writers. “We wanted to ensure that each author’s story is told in a way that is true to them and so we made space for some inconsistencies rather than enforcing uniformity across chapters,” they wrote in the book’s introduction.
- Having words from Indigenous languages “stand tall in regular font beside their English counterparts,” they dismiss the common practice in English-language publishing of italicizing non-English words.

TRIBAL LIBRARIES

“Tribal libraries are as diverse as tribal communities,” scholar Sandy Littletree has said. Tribal libraries may be located in public libraries, youth centers, or as part of museums or other institutions, and they may be administered by a tribe, pueblo, village, or other group. Littletree has produced scholarship on the history and development of tribal libraries, which she says have become “sites of cultural and language renewal, gathering places, and places to collect, preserve, and share Indigenous knowledge ... [and] important sites of decolonization.”

“Tribal libraries can be exciting places that support cultural expression and should be the place where Native language learning takes place, where records are housed and organized, where children and family members gather,” Lorie Roy said in a 2010 interview.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

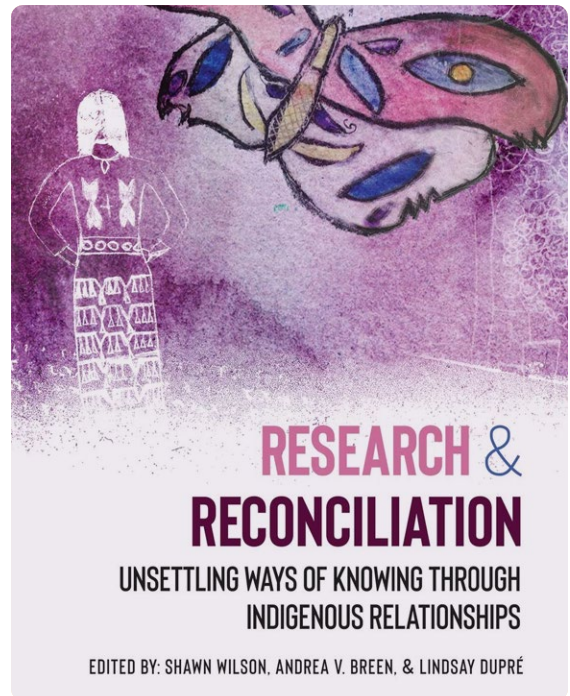
- Did the event challenge—and/or affirm—any of your ideas about research? How so?
- Who determines what is important to research?
- Which research methods are validated, and which are not? Why does methodology matter?
- Who produces research?
- How are different types of knowledge valued or devalued?
- How can research be part of decolonization?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Courses and events of the USC Department of American Studies and Ethnicity | dornsife.usc.edu/ase/
- The American Indian Library Association | ailanet.org
- The American Indian Resource Center at LA County Library, in Huntington Park
lacountylibrary.org/american-indian-resource-center

“There is no ‘follow these four steps to do Indigenous research’ . . . Indigenist approaches to research are as much about who we are as they are about what we do. We don’t learn lessons about who we are and how we should be with one another through how-to guides. We learn these lessons through stories and experiences.”—Andrea V. Breen, in the introduction to *Research and Reconciliation*

“Unsettling truths of settler colonialism involves messy processes that uncover not only new information, but also new questioning and understanding of who we are in the world.”—Lindsay DuPré, in *Research and Reconciliation*



The American Indian Resource Center
6518 Miles Ave., Huntington Park, California

- ◉ When Research is Relational: Supporting the Research Practices of Indigenous Studies Scholars (Research Report) sr.ithaka.org/publications/supporting-the-research-practices-of-indigenous-studies-scholars
- ◉ Land Acknowledgement Toolkit: You're on California Indian Land, Now What? www.csusm.edu/cicsc/land.pdf
- ◉ Native Land Digital native-land.ca
- ◉ National Indigenous Women's Resource Center—Resource Library www.niwrc.org/resources
- ◉ Indigenous Perspectives on Native Student Challenges in Higher Education by Robin Zapte-tah-hol-ah Minthorn www.higheredtoday.org/2020/01/28/indigenous-perspectives-native-student-challenges-higher-education
- ◉ Upcoming Visions and Voices events
3/25 [Roving Studio Triptych with Artist Kite](#)
4/1 [Belonging as Survival: Creativity, Activism, and Community](#)

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

KELSEY VUKIC of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

- ◉ Brendan Hokowhitu et al., [Routledge Handbook of Critical Indigenous Studies](#) (Milton: Taylor & Francis Group, 2020).
- ◉ Elizabeth Sumida Huaman and Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy, [Indigenous Innovations in Higher Education: Local Knowledge and Critical Research](#) (Rotterdam: Brill, 2017).
- ◉ Chamunorwa Togo et al., [Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the Modern Era: A Natural and Applied Science Perspective](#) (Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2019).
- ◉ Marcus Waters, [Indigenous Knowledge Production: Navigating Humanity Within a Western World](#) (Abingdon: Routledge, 2018).

JOURNALS

- ◉ [IK \(Indigenous knowledge\)](#)
- ◉ [Decolonization](#)
- ◉ [NAIS \(Native American and Indigenous Studies Association\)](#)
- ◉ [Journal of Indigenous Research](#)

DATABASES

- ◉ [Indigenous Peoples of North America](#)
- ◉ [American Indian Newspapers](#)
- ◉ [North American Indian Drama](#)
- ◉ [North American Indian Thought and Culture](#)

VIDEOS

- ◉ [Our Fires Still Burn: The Native American Experience](#) (Visions, 2013).
- ◉ [Losing Knowledge: 50 Years of Change](#) (Berkeley Media, 2012).

