



## GREEN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY SERIES **INDIGENOUS / SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS: EXPLORING HISTORIES AND ENVIRONMENTS**

As university-based researchers, we must find ways to move beyond the acknowledgment of historical and ongoing injustice in the treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada. We aspire to equitable, respectful and transparent partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and, in the context of such partnerships, offer our research capacities in support of Indigenous-defined and led initiatives. These commitments were the catalyst for forming the Indigenous/Science Research Excellence Cluster at UBC—a collective of archaeologists, natural and materials scientists, and philosophers and social scientists who study science practice. With this seminar series our aim is to showcase emerging projects and deepen our exploration of foundational questions about how, through community-engaged work, we can best take up the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

**ALL TALKS ARE AT GREEN COLLEGE IN THE COACH HOUSE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE**

### **TERM I**

#### **MUSQUEAM AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATIONS ON FIRST NATIONS SOVEREIGNTY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IN AN URBANIZED ENVIRONMENT**

**Aviva Rathbone**, Senior Archaeologist, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam); **Ginevra Toniello**, Cultural Heritage Program Manager, Tsleil-Waututh  
Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 5:00 pm

First Nations sovereignty over the definition, protection and management of cultural heritage is by and large not recognized by those who hold legislative control over the management of heritage in British Columbia. This is despite the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' recognition of the right for Indigenous Peoples to "maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites." Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations have instead found that this sovereignty can be attained through relationships with municipal governments, archaeology consultancies, academic institutions and other First Nations. These relationships promote the co-management of heritage resources according to Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh's stated values and goals and exemplify a new model of heritage management in which settler colonialists recognize, support and uphold First Nations sovereignty over the management of cultural heritage without requiring support from legislative bodies.

#### **WORKING TOGETHER TO ENHANCE ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY: A SYILX / SETTLER SCIENCE COLLABORATION**

**Jeannette Armstrong**, Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy, UBC-O; **Lael Parrott**, Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services, UBC-O  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 5:00 pm

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and renewed pressures on nation-to-nation treaties (for example, the Columbia River Treaty) have created new opportunities to transform Indigenous-Settler relationships across Canada. UBC Okanagan is demonstrably committed to these goals. UBC has a memorandum of understanding with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and a memorandum of agreement with the En'owkin Centre, both supporting the co-production of ecological knowledge through a respectful partnership

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner.  
For information on making dinner reservations, see [www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner](http://www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner)

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between Syilx knowledge holders and western scientists. Still, the pathway towards reconciliation continues; co-production of knowledge is an ongoing process. Drs. Armstrong and Parrott will discuss their shared experiences in leading the development of a collaborative Silyx/UBC research cluster in ecosystem sustainability and resilience. The research cluster is focused on key ecological concerns of Silyx communities, generating evidence, developing capacity to work as partners, and fostering innovative pedagogical initiatives (especially those engaging Syilx youth). Projects within the cluster seek to bridge academic and Indigenous worldviews to co-develop an enhanced understanding of socio-ecological interactions in Okanagan traditional territory. Through this work, a process of collaboration is emerging that may serve as an innovative, international model of respectful research-based collaboration between Indigenous and academic communities.

#### **LISTENING TO OBJECT WITNESSES: DECOLONIZING RESEARCH IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**

**Margaret Bruchac**, Anthropology, Coordinator of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative, University of Pennsylvania  
**Co-sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Histories Research Cluster**  
Wednesday, November 27, 2019, 5:00 pm

How do Indigenous objects in museum collections speak to those who collect, curate, observe and claim them? Material traces and techniques obviously reflect particular ecosystems and eras, but do these objects also retain memories of their component parts, of the artisans who created them, and of the intentions spoken into them? Can certain objects communicate across cultural and temporal boundaries, or between human and other-than-human beings? In this talk, Margaret Bruchac discusses strategies for recovering object histories through both material analyses and critical reassessments of imposed categories (art, artifact, trade good) that have distanced objects from their origins and isolated them from others like themselves. Case histories will feature new research into iconic creations – such as a 17th century wooden war club embedded with brass and wampum, and a shell bead wampum belt with a single glass bead – that function as “object witnesses” to entangled colonial settler/Indigenous encounters. Through her practice of “reverse ethnography,” Dr. Bruchac will also reveal how, in many cases, unknown histories can be recovered by tracking the desires and actions of non-Indigenous curators and collectors who transported these objects and stories to physically and conceptually distant locales.



**INDIGENOUS / SCIENCE**  
UBC Research Cluster



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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