



**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN  
AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH**



**Northwestern**

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Establishment of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research was made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



### Additional Supporters FY20

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The Spencer Foundation  
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(Wally) Hua Xie

### Land Acknowledgment

Northwestern University sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa. The land was also a site of trade, travel, gathering, and healing for more than a dozen other Native American tribes and is still home to over 100,000 tribal members in Illinois.

### On the Cover

Pictured here is the burning of sage in an abalone shell. Many Native Americans use the sage smoke to cleanse in a practice called smudging.

Layout and design by Erin Leary



### CNAIR by the numbers

**4** undergraduate fellows

**4** graduate fellows

**1** faculty fellowship awarded

**11** courses with NAIS content taught by center affiliates

**21** affiliates

**17** public, co-sponsored events

**18** graduate cluster students

## FROM THE 2019-2020 DIRECTOR

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Boozhoo, Posoh, Shekoli, Ahau,

We're excited to bring you this digest of our 2019-2020 activities. As we look back on Year 3, we see that our circle of CNAIR affiliates has grown considerably. We continue to build relationships as we strive to fulfill our mission to advance scholarship, teaching and learning, and artistic and cultural practices. We appreciate the support we receive from students, staff, administrators, and partners like the American Indian Center of Chicago, the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative, the Field Museum, the Newberry Library, the Mitchell Museum, and the urban Indian community.

Highlighting our efforts to advance teaching and learning was the launching of our new Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor. In fall 2020, students could choose from among 11 courses across four departments. In 2021 that number will grow to 16 courses across nine departments. We continued our annual visit to the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin, where students in the Medill School of Journalism helped hand harvest, shuck, and braid corn during the Oneida White Corn Festival. A group of Medill graduate students visited five Native nations in the Pacific Northwest and produced stories about the disproportionate effects of climate change on Indigenous communities.

Our four research hubs—Global Indigenities; Nationhood, Law & Governance; Environments, Health & Social Welfare; and Communities, Cultures & Activism—continue to grow and expand as more faculty affiliate with CNAIR. The hubs represent the research strengths of the Center while also expressing the multi-disciplinary research our affiliates do. We provided a stimulating intellectual space for our graduate students with research brownbags, fellows talks, and gatherings at the CNAIR house. We awarded a total of four graduate fellowships and four undergraduate fellowships to advance meaningful research on Native and Indigenous topics.

In September 2019 we hosted more than 40 Indigenous scholars representing 17 Native American and Indigenous research centers, institutes, and laboratories to talk about common goals, challenges, and best practices. On Indigenous Peoples Day, we rolled out a new Indigenous Tour of Northwestern available virtually as a [StoryMap](#) and as a [GPS-guided walking experience](#). Other programming highlights included a visit from activist artist Dr. Dylan Miner, whose talk, "This Land is Always," was part of the Kaplan Center's "Memorializing" series. CNAIR participated in [30 Days of Indigenous](#), featuring craft circles, ceremonies, nature walks, and the annual Sand Creek Memorial.

We began the new year with a very successful open house at our new CNAIR home on the south end of campus (see p. 10). More than 60 students, staff, faculty, and community members helped us celebrate in a night of food, fellowship, and gratitude for the people that made it possible. In late winter, we learned new ways to communicate as CNAIR's programming, including our second annual Research Symposium, went virtual because of the pandemic. We still found a way to connect, however, holding virtual office hours at the CNAIR house as a way to stay close to our students, staff, and faculty affiliates.

Finally, we are indebted to Kelly Wisecup, our CNAIR co-director, who left that role to take on new responsibilities as coordinator of CNAIR's NAIS minor. There are no words to describe Kelly's kind and quiet strength and how essential her leadership has been to CNAIR's success.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to CNAIR's third year—the affiliates, students, staff, and community partners who continue to help us expand our research collaborations and partnerships.

Che miigwech,  
Patty Loew

## **FACES OF CNAIR**

### **Doug Kiel**

#### **Affiliate**

(Oneida Nation)

Assistant professor of history  
and Alice Kaplan Institute  
for the Humanities,  
Weinberg College



**“ I aim to highlight  
the structural obstacles  
and ill-intentioned actors that stand in  
the way of Indigenous recovery. ”**

I am a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and a historian. I grew up in Wisconsin, and my family has roots in Chicago's urban Native community reaching back to the 1940s. My primary areas of research interest are Native American legal and political history, and race in the American Midwest.

As a CNAIR faculty fellow, I am finishing a book about Oneida nation-rebuilding since the beginning of the 20th century, which along the way interrogates what a secure, sustainable future might be. Following the destructive General Allotment Act (1887), the Oneida people debated potential pathways to recovery, devised strategies for protecting their sovereign interests, and reclaimed thousands of acres of reservation land. The Oneida Nation has been so successful at recovering land that it has prompted a series of legal challenges calling into question the validity of the reservation's exterior boundaries. Read more about the lawsuit I worked on in *Harvard Law Review*: <https://harvardlawreview.org/2021/02/oneida-nation-v-village-of-hobart/>.

“**One of my primary scholarly aims is to deepen histories of Indigenous resurgence.**”

Through my work, I aim to highlight the structural obstacles and ill-intentioned actors that stand in the way of Indigenous recovery. One of my primary scholarly aims

is to deepen histories of Indigenous resurgence. So much of Native American history is implicitly U.S. federal relations with Indigenous peoples; I am much more interested in internal tribal politics throughout the 20th century, and the relationships between Native nations and their local neighbors.

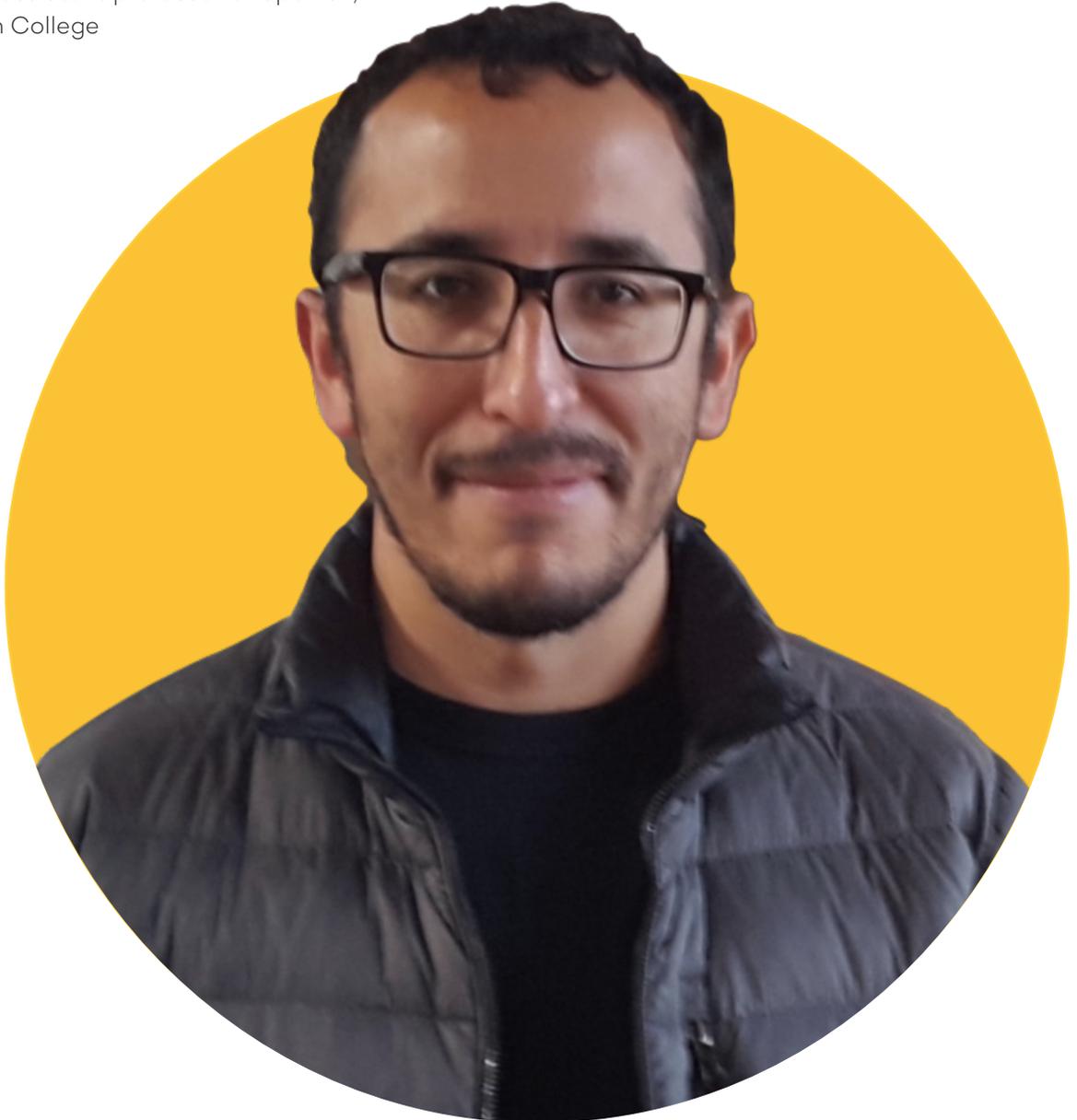
I joined the Northwestern faculty in 2016 as part of the “Indigenous Studies Research Initiative,” which became CNAIR. What makes CNAIR special is its ambitious commitment to bringing together scholars across the university, and to collectively advancing scholarship and art that engages with Indigenous communities around the globe. My hope is that CNAIR can serve as an engine for institutional change at Northwestern, and significantly increase the number of Native American students on campus, especially Cheyenne and Arapaho students whose communities survived the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 that John Evans praised.

## **FACES OF CNAIR**

### **Walther Maradiegue**

**PhD, 2020, Department of Spanish and Portuguese**

Visiting assistant professor of Spanish,  
Carleton College



**“ My research  
inspects how Indigeneity  
relates to space and territoriality  
in the Andes. ”**

My research inspects how Indigeneity relates to space and territoriality in the Andes. My dissertation examines how, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, colonial projects by the Peruvian, Bolivian, and Ecuadorian governments tried to establish reduced notions of what it means to be Indigenous and what it means to live like an Indigenous person. This led to reduced conceptions of Indigenous spaces and territories, conceptions required by capitalist and extractivist economies.

**“ Indigenous intellectuals challenged and contested national ideas found in literature, geography, and archeology. ”**

My dissertation research is in dialogue with Kañaris, Muchik, and other Quechua peoples in the Andes. I am interested in how Indigenous intellectuals challenged and contested these national ideas found in literature, geography, and archeology. I look at literature, music, maps, and poetry to find how these cultural objects project a different sense of Indigenous territories and a sovereign Indigenous spatial poetics.

Being part of the CNAIR community as a graduate fellow opened new avenues of research and inquiries, particularly through hosted talks and connections with local Indigenous scholars and artists. Learning from other fellows and faculty at CNAIR gave me new perspectives for studying colonialism and decolonialism, enabling me to compare colonial and decolonial studies rooted in the Andes with studies in Turtle Island and Abya Yala.

As a visiting assistant professor of Spanish at Carleton College, I aim to teach 19th and 20th century Latin American cultures not only from a literary theory perspective but also from an Indigenous Studies perspective.

While I am no longer at Northwestern, I still feel that I belong to the CNAIR community because of my connections with faculty, as well as with former and current graduate students. I look forward to seeing the CNAIR community grow and continue to make a huge impact in the Northwestern and Chicago communities.

**FACES OF  
CNAIR**

**Isabel St. Arnold**

**Undergraduate student**

(Keweenaw Bay Ojibwe)

School of Education and Social Policy



**“ I aim to  
incorporate and  
center Indigenous Knowledge  
Systems and ways of knowing  
in different spaces. ”**

As an undergraduate, I am studying Social Policy along with Native American and Indigenous Studies. I am most interested in educational policy and education that takes place both inside and outside of classrooms. I aim to incorporate and center Indigenous Knowledge Systems and ways of knowing in different spaces.

**“Being in educational spaces that foreground my identity as an Indigenous person has positively impacted me and my identity in many ways.”**

Knowledge Systems and ways of knowing in different spaces.

This past summer, I interned for a project creating educational materials on the cultural significance

of manoomin to Anishinaabe communities in order to demonstrate the importance of protecting manoomin from various factors such as climate change. This project foregrounded Anishinaabe knowledge on manoomin throughout these materials. This academic quarter, I am interning with Multicultural Student Affairs developing programming for the Native and Indigenous community on campus. This has given me the opportunity to gain experience in curriculum development and to continue to think about how we incorporate and center Indigenous ways of knowing.

Throughout my life, I have been lucky enough to be in multiple spaces, including CNAIR, where Indigenous Knowledge Systems and lifeways have been centered and uplifted. Being in educational spaces where my identity as an Indigenous person has been foregrounded has positively impacted me and my identity in many ways. With my work, I hope to contribute to and build more spaces so that this can be true for even more Native and Indigenous people and communities.

CNAIR has been a learning space on campus for me during my undergraduate career at Northwestern. The warmth and support that I have received has significantly impacted my experience at Northwestern in positive ways. CNAIR continues to grow, and I am so excited for what the future holds for our community as we keep moving forward. CNAIR feels like home for me, as I know it does—and will continue to—for so many in our community.



Outgoing Associate Provost and Chief Diversity Officer, Jabbar Bennett, blanketed in ceremony by CNAIR staff at the CNAIR open house.

## HISTORY

CNAIR's origins are in student activism in 2013, when undergraduates in the Native American and Indigenous Students Alliance asked the administration to acknowledge University founder John Evans's role in the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. Evans was territorial governor of Colorado (a role that included acting as superintendent of Indian affairs) when US soldiers killed more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people—primarily women and children—who had declared their peaceful intentions and placed themselves under the protection of US officials at Fort Lyon.

In 2013, the provost's office convened the John Evans Report Committee to explore Evans's role in the massacre and his relationship with Northwestern. The University also convened the Native American Outreach and Inclusion Task Force to recommend strategies to strengthen Northwestern's relationship with Native American communities through recruitment efforts, academic programs, and campus support services. The task force recommended that the University fund an Indigenous research center.

In 2015, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences dean Adrian Randolph announced the Indigenous Studies Research Initiative, which in part resulted in hiring two tenure-track assistant professors, a teaching-track professor, and a postdoctoral fellow. In 2016, the College received a \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. Center directors were appointed and the first staff position was filled. Programming began in fall 2017, a strategic plan was created, and the first affiliates from various schools began establishing the center's governance and operational structures.

Outreach to local, regional, and national Native American communities and tribes has been critical. Listening to tribal

leaders, understanding the research needs of Native communities, and finding opportunities for collaboration will continue to be central to the center's work as CNAIR takes shape over the coming years.

## VISION

CNAIR is Northwestern's primary institutional space dedicated to advancing scholarship, teaching and learning, and artistic and cultural practices related to Native American and Indigenous communities, priorities, histories, and lifeways.

Our vision is for the center to

- operate as a hub for multidisciplinary, collaborative work informed by and responsive to Native American and Indigenous Nations, communities, and organizations;
- foster an innovative, Indigenous-centered intellectual space open to multiple modes of engagement for faculty, students, staff, and community members; and
- develop and promote reciprocal and sovereignty-affirming relationships and partnerships with Native American and Indigenous peoples and organizations.



At the CNAIR open house, we were joined by Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, Vice-President of Student Affairs, and Ann Bradlow, Associate Dean for Academic Initiatives, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.



### MOVE INTO 515 HOUSE

Joy. It was an evening filled with joy.

On January 24, 2020, when CNAIR opened the doors to its new home on the south end of the Evanston campus, more than 60 well-wishers filled the space. It was an event three years in the making. The open house was an opportunity to share fellowship; enjoy food, prepared by local caterer, Native American Foods owned by Cindy Starr;



Nikki McDaid-Morgan serving herself some of the homemade wild rice soup prepared by Native American Foods.

and offer heartfelt thanks to Ann Bradlow, Associate Dean for Academic Initiatives of Weinberg College, which provided the house, and Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, Vice-President of Student Affairs (p. 9).

CNAIR staff extended a special thank you to outgoing Associate Provost and Chief Diversity Officer, Jabbar Bennett, a staunch ally of the Center and champion of Native initiatives. Bennett was visibly moved when staff blanketed him in ceremony (p. 8).

Located at 515 Clark Street, the two-story residential structure offers space for small conferences, a research room for graduate fellows, two offices for staff, and a small kitchen. The most exciting space is upstairs where a library overflows with books donated from two generous patrons, LaVonne Ruoff and Arlene Hirschfelder. The two educators spent years supporting Native scholars and donated their entire libraries to CNAIR.



CNAIR open house

## ADVANCING SCHOLARSHIP

### NAIS Graduate Cluster

The Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) Cluster welcomed two new graduate students in 2019-2020, Andrew Holter and Heather Menefee, both in the Department of History. The Cluster has grown to include about twenty graduate students from the arts and humanities, social sciences, and learning sciences.

### Teaching lodge

#### Launched January 2020

The graduate student organization Indigenous Graduate Student Collaborative (IGSC), formerly called Colloquium on Indigeneity and Native American Studies (CINAS) is proposing to build a wigwam to stand as a Teaching Lodge for our shared communities on the Northwestern Evanston campus. IGSC is working with CNAIR, the Center for Engineering Sustainability and Resilience (CESR), the Alice Kaplan Center for the Humanities, the Native American Studies graduate cluster, and community members from Evanston and Chicago areas, as well as from Menominee communities in Wisconsin.

The Teaching Lodge was intended to be built over the course of 3 quarters starting in 2020 but due to the pandemic, the building of the physical lodge will be delayed. The effort will continue with regular gatherings, operating as a virtual teaching lodge. Once built, the plan is to have the lodge stand for 1 year after construction. Ideally, in spring, harvest of materials and construction will take place close together (April-June). The precise dates of these activities is uncertain due to the pandemic, weather and microclimate considerations in the timing of harvesting saplings for the frame of the lodge. Construction will occur soon after harvest to preserve the flexibility of the saplings. Once built, the lodge will be available to host appropriate gatherings and activities and a request system will be put in place.

### CNAIR fellowships

#### Undergraduate fellows

We awarded a total of four undergraduate research fellowships in 2019-2020, three of which went to



Teaching lodge

students working on the Indigenous Tour of Northwestern project. Two of the students organized and wrote media content for the StoryMap version of the tour, while the third helped develop content for the teacher's guide and lesson plan. The fourth fellow assisted Patty Loew on her Traditional Ecological Knowledge project with three Ojibwe communities and the National Park Service. One fellow, Alex Schwartz, wrote a long-form magazine article about a pipeline threatening the wild rice of a Native American community in northern Wisconsin, which was nominated for a national media award.

### Graduate fellows & faculty fellows

We worked throughout 2019-2020 to support two faculty fellows (Beth Redbird and Kim Marion Suiseeya) and three graduate student fellows (E. Bennett Jones, Nikki McDaid-Morgan, and Daniela Raillard) with research brown bags, fellows' talks, and gatherings at the CNAIR house. Graduate student fellows used their research funding to conduct research with tribal communities in Idaho and Peru, to develop digital engagement initiatives and ethics, and to conduct archival research. They report completing their fellowship with new data sets, an expanded sense of the stakes of their project, and new research questions to pursue. Faculty fellows gave talks on their work related to climate justice and inequalities within Indigenous communities.

## 2nd Annual Research Symposium

May 29, 2020

Virtual research talks by our faculty, graduate, and undergraduate fellows featuring Lois Biggs (Art History and Comparative Literary Studies), E. Bennett Jones (History), Nikki McDaid-Morgan (Learning Sciences), Beth Redbird (Sociology), Daniela Raillard (Anthropology), Kim Marion Suiseeya (Political Science).



Jones, McDaid-Morgan, Raillard, and Loew

## Advancing Indigenous Research (AIR) workshop September 6-7, 2019

Participants represented 17 universities, 13 states and 2 Canadian provinces

Scholars and administrators from across the United States and Canada gathered on the Northwestern University campus Sept. 6-7, 2019 to discuss models for supporting Indigenous research within higher education institutions. The “Advancing Indigenous Research Workshop” aimed to support faculty and administrators in the work of creating space for Indigenous methodology and epistemology, developing community relationships and producing relevant research, all of which are necessary for encouraging an inclusive academic environment.

The workshop also invited attendees to explore successful models, strategies for overcoming challenges and measures for evaluating, as well as identifying resources and meeting potential partners. “I think the first thing to acknowledge is that Indigenous research has always been unfolding since time immemorial,” said Dr. Karina Walters.

“We’ve always been scientists, we’ve always observed the world, we’ve always had deductive-inductive logic, and all of those things that are part of our science.” Walters, a professor and co-director of the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute at University of Washington, emphasized the need for Indigenous scholars to hear each other and share struggles and strengths, along with creating spaces for Indigenous knowledge, practices and science. The workshop was supported by a grant from the Spencer Foundation.

## Programming highlights

We are buoyed by the success of Year 3 programming, which covered topics from the history of monuments to food sovereignty movements and which drew appreciate audiences (about 75-100 people per event) for virtually every event. Between April 1, 2019 and March 12, 2020, CNAIR sponsored three keynotes and co-sponsored 19 Native American and Indigenous lectures, book talks, film screenings, workshops, panel discussions, and performances. Although our spring 2020 programming was delayed due to the pandemic, we rescheduled for 2020-21. Instead of guest speakers, in spring 2020, we formed a virtual book club, which met every two weeks, and held daily virtual drop-in hours for students and faculty to check in.



AIR Workshop participants, who represented 17 universities, 13 states and 2 Canadian provinces

CNAIR and affiliates cosponsored numerous collaborative events and programs during the academic year. We sincerely thank our partners and co-sponsors:

Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities  
Block Museum of Art  
Center for Experiential Learning at Loyola University, Chicago  
Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy  
Colloquium on Indigenous and Native American Studies (CINAS)  
Department of African American Studies  
Department of Art History  
Department of Art Theory and Practice  
Department of English  
Department of Sociology  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Department of Political Science  
Global Learning Office (GLO)  
Institute for Policy Research  
Latin American Studies Program at Loyola University, Chicago  
Latinx Studies Program  
Litowitz Creative Writing Graduate Program  
Multicultural Student Affairs  
Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications  
Native American and Indigenous Student Alliance (NAISA)  
Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies (CCHS)  
Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion  
Program in Environmental Policy and Culture  
Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching  
University Libraries

**September 6-7, 2019**

**Advancing Indigenous Research (AIR) Workshop**

See p. 12

**October 3 – 4, 2019**

**Multiple Battlefield Cinema**

Two-day workshop that brought together filmmakers, scholars, and Indigenous Peoples to explore how community-engaged and art-based

environmental scholarship can both make visible often-invisible Indigenous histories of struggle and recognition while at the same time serve as an important tool for witnessing and archiving contemporary political struggles. This work supports a new generation of Mebêngôkre-Kayapó media-makers and a complementary network focused on cultivating new forms of transnational Indigenous media making. This workshop complemented work already underway in CNAIR, where faculty and staff are engaged in working with and training Native American and American Indian youth on filmmaking. Coordinated by CNAIR fellow Kim Suiseeya.

**October 14, 2019**

**The Indigenous Tour of Northwestern  
Patty Loew (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe)**

In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, Medill Professor and CNAIR director Patty Loew shared the digital tour of Indigenous locations on campus. Loew received the Daniel I. Linzer grant in 2019, which focuses on curriculum and development with an emphasis on diversity.

Loew and her team created a multimedia tour accessible from a desktop, a GPS guided walking tour of Indigenous locations on campus and curriculum (in progress) for a teachers' guide available for NU faculty and other educators.



Patty Loew sharing the Indigenous Tour of Northwestern

October 16, 2019

### Indigenous Peoples' Day Concert

Frank Waln (Sicangu Lakota), NuFolk Rebel Alliance, OPLIAM

CNAIR co-sponsored an Indigenous Peoples' Day Concert. The musicians performed at Old Town School of Folk Music.

October 17, 2019

### "This Land is Always"

Dylan AT Miner (citizen, Métis Nation of Ontario), Michigan State University

CNAIR co-sponsored a lecture as part of the Kaplan 2019-2020 Humanities Dialogue: MEMORIALIZING series, a year-long public conversation about commemorating, contesting, and claiming from humanistic perspectives. Miner lectured on his artistic and scholarly practices related to political and ecological concerns. Miner also discussed collaborative projects and ways that artists can intervene in larger socio-political issues.

October 24-25, 2019

### Archaeology and Its Avatars: Andean Cultures and Histories Symposium

This symposium discussed the differences and similarities between archaeological interventions and the way those interventions have been taken up as analytic, metaphor, and discursive strategy.

November 1, 2019

### CNAIR Fellows Brownbag

Angel A. Escamilla García, E. Bennett Jones, Nikki McDaid-Morgan (Shoshone-Bannock), and Daniela Maria Raillard

CNAIR graduate fellows discussed their research.

November 19, 2019

### Monuments of Omission: Erasure in the Memory Work of Indigenous Cultures and Contemporary Media

Jean O'Brien (citizen, White Earth Ojibwe Nation), University of Minnesota; and Thomas Stubblefield, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Fall keynote of the 2019-2020 Humanities Dialogue: MEMORIALIZING series. While absence, erasure and invisibility are often regarded as antithetical

to memory, these tropes have proven integral to both theories of the monument and contemporary practices of memorialization. Stubblefield's presentation explored this counter-intuitive relation by considering the postwar "counter-monument" and its relation to a broader ecology of contemporary media. O'Brien's presentation considered the ways Indigenous public intellectuals engage with memorialization as counter-narrative, taking as a touchstone the upcoming 400th commemoration of Plymouth, Massachusetts through the Pokanoket sachem known as Massasoit.

The poster is titled "Memorializing" at the top in a large, bold font. Below the title is a subtitle: "A year-long series about commemorating, contesting, and claiming." The main title of the event is "MONUMENTS OF OMISSION" in bold, followed by the subtitle "Erasure in the Memory Work of Indigenous Cultures and Contemporary Media". The speakers are listed as "FALL KEYNOTE Jean M. O'Brien and Thomas Stubblefield". The date and time are "NOVEMBER 18, 2019 4:30 pm" and the location is "Harris Hall #108". There are two photographs: one of Jean M. O'Brien and one of Thomas Stubblefield. A small text box on the right says "Free and open to the public. Make possible in part by the Harris Lecture Fund." At the bottom, it says "Co-sponsored by Northwestern Center for Native American and Indigenous Research" and "ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES". The website "humanities.northwestern.edu" is also listed.

January 16, 2020

### "Counting America's First Peoples"

Carolyn Liebler, University of Minnesota

CNAIR co-sponsored the Department of Sociology Colloquium, "Counting America's First Peoples" with Carolyn Liebler (University of Minnesota). Liebler discussed why the descendants of the First Peoples of the Americas (labeled "American Indians and Alaska Natives" in the federal definition) are a particularly challenging group to count in censuses. She emphasized that tribal self-enumeration and Indigenous data sovereignty may improve data about some portions of the population.

January 24, 2020

### CNAIR Open House

See p. 10

January 29, 2020

**“What Drives Native American Poverty?”**

**Beth Redbird (Oglala Lakota/ Oklahoma Choctaw), Northwestern**

This talk, by Redbird (Sociology), examined the development of new tribal institutions and sought to disentangle the complex interwoven aspects of modern tribal economies that drive economic security. Using a decomposition model, Redbird found that changes in residence (returning to reservations), family structure, and lack of education play a small role in Native poverty, whereas she identified that the structure of employment is the most significant cause in the poverty increase. Her findings suggest that the changing nature of tribal labor markets is having significant and unpredicted impacts on Native poverty and inequality.

February 6, 2020

**Reanimation, Metamorphosis, Kinship: New Archives of Romanticism**

A roundtable on Black and Indigenous literatures of the Long 19th Century moderated by Tristram Wolff (English, Northwestern) and presentations from Sarah Johnson (English, U Chicago), Nicole Spigner (Af Am Studies, Northwestern), Isaiah Wilner (History, U Chicago), and Kelly Wisecup (English, Northwestern). This is part of a yearlong series: Provincializing Romanticism.



February 6, 2020

**“More to say: Tribal voices in the 2020 election”**

**Mark Trahan (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes)**

CNAIR co-hosted the Medill Public lecture given by Mark Trahan, Editor of Indian Country Today and NAJA/Medill Milestone Achievement Award recipient. Trahan is known for his election reporting, developing the first comprehensive database of American Indians and Alaska Natives running for office. His research has been cited in publications ranging from *The New York Times* to *The Economist*.

February 7, 2020

**Carry: Land Theft, Gun Violence, and Indigenous Peoples’ Lives**

**Toni Jensen (Métis)**

A reading and talk about the ties between land ownership or loss and the violence against Indigenous people, both past and present. Jensen also read from *Carry*, a memoir-in-essays about gun violence, land and Indigenous women’s lives (Ballantine, Sept. 2020.)

February 18, 2020

**Food Sovereignty and the Oneida White Corn Project**

**Becky M. Webster (Oneida Nation) and Laura Manthe (Oneida Nation)**

CNAIR hosted the Winter Keynote with Webster and Manthe from the Oneida White Corn Growers Group.



(Left) Laura Manthe and Becky Webster with the Oneida White Corn Project. (Above) Robin John (Oneida) and Aaron Golding (Seneca), Assistant Director, Multicultural Student Affairs.

**February 18, 2020**

**“Open the Door: Memory, Mourning, and the Ancestor as Foundation”**

**M. Carmen Lane and Michael Rakowitz**

February 18, 2020 marked posthumously the 86th birthday of Audre Lorde and the 89th birthday of Toni Morrison (the first since her death in August 2019). Lane and Rakowitz engaged in a public talk on ancestry, place, dispossession, and the steadfastness of survival. Using textual prompts from both Lorde and Morrison, the artists continued a dialogue between each other that began half a decade ago and which has impacted both of their practices—which involves grief as both a material and a process that resists disconnection.

**March 3, 2020**

**“Explorations of Native American Literature: Decolonizing the History of the Book”**

**Michael Kelly, Amherst College**

Kelly (Special Collections, Amherst College) discussed “The Materiality of Native American Literature: Decolonizing the History of the Book.” This event was a joint CCHS/University Libraries annual Lecture on the History of the Book, with the collaboration of CNAIR.

**March 4, 2020**

**Decolonizing Healthcare**

**James Makokis (member, Saddle Lake Cree Nation)** Culturally informed and affirming healthcare is critical for all, especially patients from marginalized backgrounds. Dr. Makokis, who is known around the world for providing affirming healthcare for Two-Spirit and Transgender individuals, discussed healthcare from an Indigenous perspective.

**March 12, 2020**

**Reimagining Diversity and Inclusion via Epistemologies of the South**

**Fany Aguinda (Kichwa); Chelsea Viteri (Mestiza)** CNAIR co-sponsored this dynamic, arts-based workshop that involved participants in a collective exploration of the conflicts we face surrounding epistemological diversity and inclusion in higher

education. This workshop was facilitated by Aguinda, an indigenous Kichwa youth leader from Tzawata, Ecuador and Viteri, a Mestiza educator-facilitator-artist from Quito, Ecuador. Aguinda and Viteri are members of the Pachaysana Institute, a collective of Ecuadorian and international educators, teaching artists, development specialists and community organizers who seek to bridge the divide between community development and international development, as well as between local and global education.

**May 29, 2020**

**CNAIR 2019-2020 Symposium**

2nd annual research symposium

See p. 12



Anika Exum, graduate journalism student during her “Medill Explores the Indigenous Pacific Northwest” trip, February 2020. Photo credit: Abigail Foerster



“Medill Explores the Indigenous Pacific Northwest”  
with Quinault Nation tribal officials  
Photo credit: Abigail Foerster

## ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Pacific Northwest

In early February 2020, a group of Medill graduate journalism students traveled to the Indigenous Pacific Northwest to explore traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and scientific ecological knowledge. CNAIR’s Patty Loew and Abigail Foerster combined their social justice and health and science reporting classes to lead the students to six communities along the Olympic Peninsula, including Quinault, where residents are moving to higher ground. Climate change and rising seas have generated floods of increasing frequency and intensity. The situation is further informed by oral tradition, which warns of a major earthquake followed by a tsunami every 350-400 years. The Cascadia earthquake occurred in 1700, so Quinault community members say they feel a sense of urgency, especially since their Head Start, K-12 school, and senior center are located in the tsunami zone.

### NAIS Minor

In October 2019, the faculty of Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences unanimously approved a minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies. The minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) is designed for the student who is interested in understanding the identities and experiences, cultural practices, and lifeways of Native American and Indigenous people. It requires six courses from across a variety of departments and includes explorations of creative expression, the social and natural worlds, and Indigeneity within a global context.

### Course Highlights

Course offerings for 2019-2020 included Global Health 390, Native American Health Research and Prevention (Professor Beatriz Reyes); History 300, Red Power: Indigenous Resistance in the U.S. and Canada, 1887-Present (Professor Doug Kiel); and Journalism 367, Native American Environmental Issues and the Media (Professor Patty Loew).

Students in English 374: Native Chicago (taught by Kelly Wisecup) visited the Field Museum, where Community Engagement Coordinator Debra Yepa-Pappan led a tour and discussion of Indigenous people and museum practices. The class also visited the “Indian Land Dancing” bricolage at Foster Avenue and Lake Shore Drive and the American Indian Center of Chicago, where they heard talks by John N Low (Pokagon Potawatomi, Ohio State University) and Kyle Mays (Saginaw Anishinaabe, UCLA) about urban Indigenous and Black histories. Students worked collaboratively to create digital exhibits about places in Indigenous Chicago, from the site of Carlos Montezuma’s (Yavapai Apache) medical office to the Lyric Opera, where Maria Tallchief (Osage) was director of ballet.

## ADVANCING ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

### Anishinaabeg canoe maker set to be CNAIR Artist-in-Residence

In winter 2020, CNAIR invited Anishinaabeg canoe maker, Wayne Minogizhig Valliere, to be the fall 2020 artist-in-residence. Valliere, a citizen of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, is one of the few master birch bark canoe builders in the country. CNAIR is partnering with the Art Department, which has offered Valliere space to construct the 16-foot canoe. Although the residency has been postponed because of the pandemic, we are looking forward to hosting this amazing traditional artist.

### Indigenous tour of Northwestern

CNAIR launched its Indigenous Tour of Northwestern in two versions: a StoryMap: <https://bit.ly/2n8Acr5> and a GPS-guided walking tour: <http://bit.ly/2NW20s2>, which have been incorporated into humanities and journalism classes and used for alumni activities and field trips by Native-serving institutions in Chicago.



### Hirschfelder donation of books / periodicals

CNAIR’s rapidly expanding library received a major boost this year with a gift from renowned Native American studies scholar Arlene Hirschfelder. The donation consisted of about 1,800 books and 65 journals of over 2,000 issues.

Hirschfelder completed her Master’s thesis at the University of Chicago, where she researched the depiction of Native Americans in high school textbooks. She is a prolific author—publishing 25 books on Indigenous topics and an even more prolific book collector. Over the years, she purchased rare poetry books, small-run titles, cookbooks and art books in addition to the journals. Her collection of the Association of American Indian Affairs newsletters dates back to 1938 and contains every issue.

She and her husband, Dennis, have close ties to Northwestern where their son graduated in 1992. The Hirschfelders first approached CNAIR two years ago about donating Arlene’s library. Staff were flabbergasted when they learned the extent of her collection, which, in accordance with her wishes, will be split between CNAIR and the NU Library system so as to ensure the widest possible circulation. The pandemic slowed the logistics of moving the donation from New Jersey, where the Hirschfelders reside, to Evanston, but in late summer, the transfer finally took place.

Once the books are processed, the next step is to look at ways CNAIR can attract researchers to make use of the Hirschfelder collection, as well as the collection donated in 2018 by another acclaimed Native American studies scholar, LaVonne Ruoff.



CNAIR house library, which houses collections from the Hirshfelder and LaVonne Ruoff donations

## STRATEGIC GOALS 2020-2023

CNAIR is an integral part of Northwestern’s efforts to promote healing and inclusivity of Native Americans. This requires us to work closely with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Multicultural Student Affairs, the Graduate School and Undergraduate Admissions. CNAIR is committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

Goal 1: Develop engagement strategies that ultimately lead to research that improves the well-being (or meets the research needs) of Native American communities and Nations and strengthens our affiliate community and partnerships on and off campus.

Goal 2: Increase advocacy efforts at the highest levels of leadership at NU to push for attracting, hiring, retaining and accepting Native American faculty, students and staff to build a critical mass.

Goal 3: Identify projects and engage in partnerships that steward research toward initiatives holding a global focus grounded in local Indigeneity and leverage NU’s content strengths and location.

Goal 4: Increase CNAIR’s visibility among Native

and non-Native students by expanding outreach and creating opportunities for them to engage with CNAIR.

Goal 5: Advocate for establishing a Vice-Provost position for Native American and Indigenous Relations.

## OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

### External Partners

American Indian Association of Illinois  
 American Indian Center of Chicago  
 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
 Bad River Tribal Youth Media  
 Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative  
 D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Newberry Library  
 Evanston Public Library  
 Field Museum of Natural History  
 Giant Screen Films  
 Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission  
 Mitchel Museum of the American Indian  
 National Institutes of Health  
 National Science Foundation  
 Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois  
 Native American Journalists Association  
 Northwestern Alumni Association  
 Northwestern Emeriti Organization  
 Spencer Foundation  
 Terra Foundation for American Art

### Chicagoland Research Networks

#### Chicagoland NAIS Working Group

Composed of faculty and graduate students from area universities, including the University of Chicago, University of Illinois-Chicago, Northern Illinois University, Loyola University, and Northwestern, the group reads and provides feedback on pre-circulated papers. It is also a space for sharing information about programs, supporting efforts to build NAIS at area universities, and providing support in Indigenous research for faculty whose home departments are in traditional disciplines and whose universities don’t have an NAIS center or program.

**Partner Feature: Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (CAICC)**

Jennifer Michals, Program Assistant, is co-chair of the Education sub-committee, which is made up of American Indian educators, parents, and students who represent educational organizations and programs at all levels serving American Indian people in the Chicago area. The Education sub-committee coordinates the annual Urban Native Community Education Conference, and 2020’s fourth annual conference was held virtually May 26th-28th. As a result, there was a record number of attendees – 200, representing 26 states. Santiago X and Frank Waln were the keynote speakers.

Pamala Silas, Associate Director, is chair of the Research sub-committee overseeing the collaborative’s first research project utilizing data from community Covid-19 relief efforts and community education survey data.

**Partner Feature: The Newberry Library**

Northwestern remains a member of the Newberry Library’s Consortium on American Indian and Indigenous Studies (NCAIS), and Northwestern NCAIS liaison Kelly Wisecup (English) serves on the NCAIS steering committee, while Patty Loew serves on the D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies Advisory Committee. Two NU students and CNAIR fellows gave talks at the annual NCAIS graduate student conferences in winter 2019; Cordelia Rizzo (Performance Studies) presented on Indigenous activism and textiles in Mexico, and Risa Puleo (Art History) presented on Indigenous environmental knowledge in Spanish colonial maps.

**Partner Feature: Buffett Update**

Members of a successful transdisciplinary team that competed in a challenge grant competition sponsored by the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs continue to meet and strategize about research that may help Native America. A 12-member

multidisciplinary team led by CNAIR affiliates Kim Suiseeya and Jennifer Dunn with participation from Bill Miller, Pam Silas, and Patty Loew focused on the disproportionate effects of climate change on economically challenged communities, including tribal nations. During a weekend “idea incubation” session in late 2019, the team acknowledged that climate change solutions may not always address the problems, and sometimes have unintended consequences that exacerbate inequities. Team members agreed upon research strategies that recognize the need to understand how communities understand their own problems and co-develop climate change responses. The competition awarded \$150,000 to the winning team. The Buffett competition promoted new relationships and produced new opportunities for CNAIR that have led to additional grant submissions to the National Science Foundation.

**CNAIR STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

We are pleased to report that in October, CNAIR Director Loew was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and named the state of Wisconsin’s Martin Luther King Jr. Heritage Award recipient. Loew also received the Northwestern Provost Award for Exemplary Faculty Service.



Loew signing the Book of Members



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**Forrest Bruce**, graduate student in learning sciences

**Patrick Eccles**, associate director, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs

**Elzbieta Foeller-Pituch**, assistant director, Nicholas D. Chabreja Center for Historical Studies

**John Low**, professor of comparative studies, Ohio State University

**Nikki McDaid-Morgan**, graduate student in learning sciences

**Aaron Packman**, professor of civil and environmental engineering

## 2019-20 AFFILIATES

**Megan Bang**, professor of learning sciences

**Geraldo L. Cadava**, associate professor of history

**Jorge Coronado**, professor of Spanish and Portuguese

**Janet Dees**, Steven and Lisa Munster Tananbaum Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Block Museum of Art

**Jack Doppelt**, Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Professor of Journalism

**Abigail M. Foerstner**, assistant professor of journalism

**Scott Garton**, academic librarian, University Libraries

**Jasmine Gurneau**, manager, Native American and Indigenous Initiatives, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

**Josiah Hester**, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and computer science

**Josh Honn**, digital humanities librarian, University Libraries

**Doug Kiel**, assistant professor of history and Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities

**Douglas Medin**, professor of psychology

**Hirokazu Miyazaki**, Kay Davis Professor of Anthropology

**Beth Redbird**, assistant professor of sociology

**Beatriz O. Reyes**, assistant professor of instruction in global health studies

**Ramón Rivera-Servera**, professor and chair of performance studies; interim chair of theatre

**Nitasha Tamar Sharma**, associate professor and director of graduate studies in African American studies; director of Asian American studies

**Kimberly Marion Suiseeya**, assistant professor of political science

**Eli Suzukovich III**, adjunct lecturer of anthropology and environmental policy and culture

**Joel Valentin-Martinez**, associate professor and director of dance

**Mary Weismantel**, professor of anthropology



Panelists share findings from the UIC, "Adversity and Resiliency for Chicago's First: The state of Racial Justice for American Indian Chicagoans."

(Clockwise from top left) Faith R. Kares, co-author; Cynthia Soto; Shelly Tucciarelli; Jasmine Gurneau; and Pamala Silas



“Medill Explores the Indigenous Pacific Northwest” with Justine James,  
Cultural Resource Specialist from the Quinault Indian Nation  
Photo credit: Abigail Foerster

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Produced by Global Marketing and Communications.  
4-20/500/JS-KP/2911