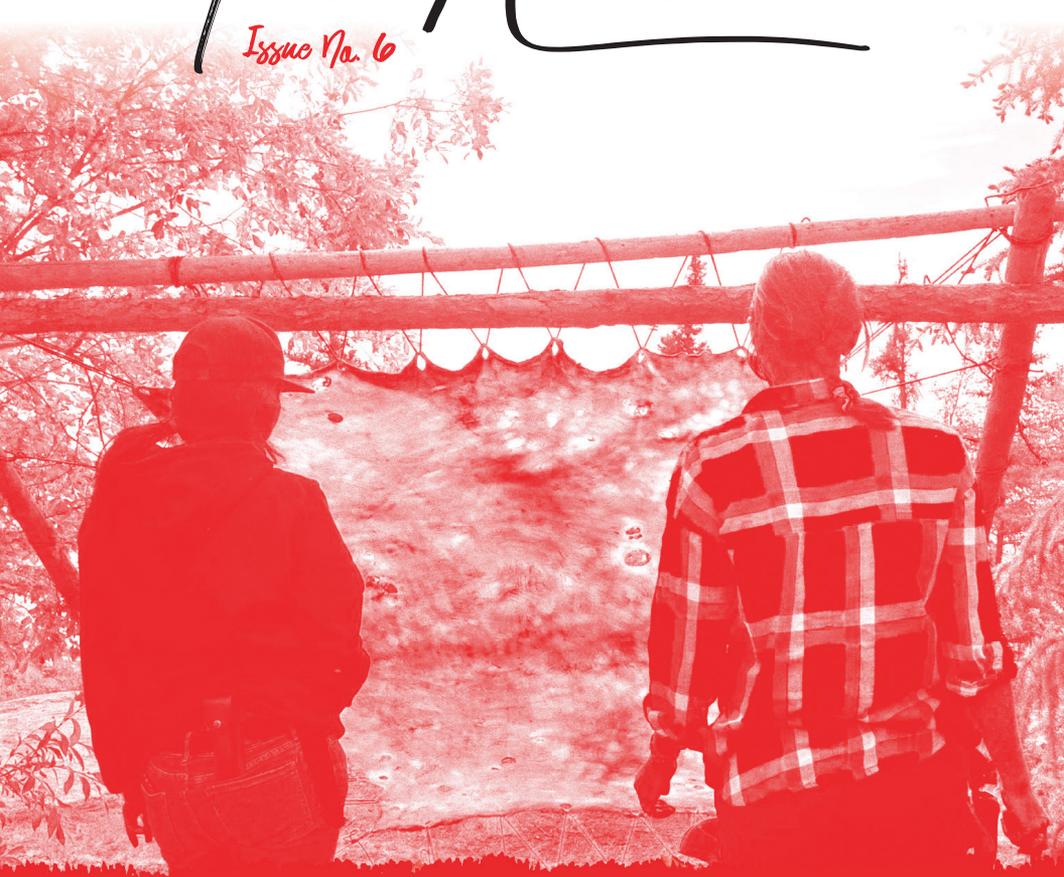


# The Raven

Issue No. 6



## **First Nations & Indigenous Studies Annual Publication**



**Indigenous New Media Collective**

**Race, Gender and Decolonization**

*Addressing Sexual Violence at UBC*

**Student Profiles + More**

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**ABOUT OUR LOGO** FNIS would like to thank Dempsey Bob (Thaltan / Tlingit) for the design of our program logo. The image is a raven and the sun, a story in many BC First Nations traditions in which the trickster-transformer and culture hero Raven steals the Sun from the covetous keeper and releases it, thereby bringing daylight and knowledge to the shadow-weary land.

To request physical copies of  
*The Raven* please e-mail  
[cis.arts@ubc.ca](mailto:cis.arts@ubc.ca).

You can also find the digital PDF at  
[fnis.arts.ubc.ca/media/the-raven](http://fnis.arts.ubc.ca/media/the-raven)

# Letters from the Editors

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## SAGE BROOMFIELD

Sage, an International Relations major, was the CIS Student Project Assistant in the 2017 Winter term and began the editorial process of *The Raven*. Sage is Cree, English, and Irish. She was born in Edmonton, Alberta near her ancestral lands of the Sawridge Nation in Slave Lake; however, Sage grew up on Vancouver Island in the lands of the Coast Salish peoples.

**T**a'nsi and welcome to *The Raven*! I'd like to thank the CIS community that welcomed me in during my stint as the Student Project Assistant. The CIS faculty, staff, and students are the voices you will read in this publication. I am so proud to have been a tiny part of the work that they do in the Institute. If I have learned anything in this position it is that CIS thrives on collaboration so, while not the usual editing process, I am so grateful to Melissa for taking the project on. Of course, thank you to the supporters and readers of this publication. Happy reading!

## MELISSA WEBB

Melissa is a white queer settler student in First Nations and Indigenous Studies. She grew up in a small factory town in southwestern Ontario that sits on traditional Anishinaabe territories. In her free time, she is likely practicing her go-to karaoke songs and wondering what she will have for her next meal.

**A**s an editor, alongside Sage, bearing witness to this process was our way of highlighting Indigenous initiatives on and off campus that often go unnoticed or unheard. This has been a tremendous learning experience. As a student, it was often the instructors who would chase us down for submissions but this time it was the other way around and I would not have wished for anything else! Thank you to FNIS for allowing me to take part in this process and the continued support I have received over the last three years. I raise my hands to each of you.

## RICKY CASTANEDO LAREDO

Ricky was born in Mexico and immigrated to Canada in 2010 where he became a graduate of Emily Carr University's Fine Arts program. He is currently the art director and designer for CiTR 101.9 FM & *Discorder Magazine*, and the music director at CJSF 90.1 FM. He loves music, cats, and board games.

**I**am very excited to have been given the opportunity to work with the FNIS again after working on promotional material for the recent speaker series held in collaboration with CiTR. It has been a tremendous privilege to work on *The Raven* and I hope that readers will enjoy this year's design. A big thanks is owed to David Gaertner for his support and to the rest of *The Raven* editorial team for welcoming me so openly into the project.

*We would like to acknowledge that First Nations and Indigenous Studies and the University of British Columbia are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. We thank the Musqueam Nation for its hospitality and support of our work.*

# Chair Address

SHERYL LIGHTFOOT

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**It has been such a privilege to serve as Acting Chair of First Nations and Indigenous Studies and Acting Co-Director of the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies during this important transitional year.**

**W**E HAVE BEEN WORKING hard to deepen our connections with First Nations and Endangered Languages and further develop the structure of the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies. While both the FNIS and FNEL programs will continue to operate as independent undergraduate programs, the Institute (or “CIS”) provides us more opportunities to grow and expand our course offerings, initiatives, and community connections.

During the past year, we said fond farewells to some members of our staff who went on to pursue new careers, and we welcomed new staff members: Cecilia Federizon as our Program Assistant, and Louise Soga as Senior Program Assistant. Over the course of this past year, we consolidated our staffing structure so that we now have a single integrated staff for the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies.

We have also had some faculty comings and goings. Dr. Linc Kesler is leaving on a well-deserved sabbatical after fifteen continuous years with UBC. Meanwhile, Dr. Daniel Justice will be returning from his sabbatical, with a new book and several underway to his credit. Dr. David Gaertner also joined us as a permanent member of the faculty after several years as an instructor and a post-doctoral fellow. We will also soon be welcoming a new Director of the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies. Stay tuned!

Several of our faculty expanded our international connections. Sarah Hunt spent three weeks with the University of Waikato in Aotearoa New Zealand, and I was a visiting scholar at the

## CHAIR ADDRESS



**Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot,**  
outgoing Chair for the  
FNIS program at UBC.

University of Melbourne in Australia and also spent some research time at the United Nations in both Geneva and New York. This year, we had nine FNIS majors in our capstone seminar, the FNIS Research Practicum. Each student conducted a year-long collaborative research project with an Indigenous community-based organization. These students all presented their work back to the community at the end of the year with on-campus presentations as well as an evening with the Musqueam Nation.

Technology is playing a bigger and bigger role in our curriculum, as David Gaertner has been assisting with technology for user engagement at the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre through the Indigenization initiative, while Dory Nason is working on guidelines and curricular supports for ethical engagement with digital materials.

Our partnership with Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning in the Northwest Territories continues to deepen. We are very excited to create new opportunities for UBC and northern Indigenous students to come together and engage in experiential land-based learning in the north.

It has been a busy but very productive year, and I am very excited to see what next year has in store for us! ●

Faculty  
reflections

## SHERYL LIGHTFOOT

Canada 150 and the high profile of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples translated into an extremely busy year for Sheryl. In addition to publishing two book chapters and one journal article this year, she has also been a regular commentator at universities, conferences and in the media, both across Canada and overseas, including expert testimony to both the United Nations and the Canadian House of Commons. She has five more book chapters forthcoming and continues work on her book manuscript, *The Politics of Indigenous Apologies*, as well as her two major research projects, “Complex Sovereignties” and “Global Challenges to Democracy.”



## DANIEL JUSTICE

After finishing his five-year term as FNIS Chair, Daniel took a year’s research leave to finish some long-gestating projects. His book *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* was published in March by Wilfrid Laurier University Press, and he is now wrapping up *Raccoon*, a volume in the Animal cultural history series from Reaktion Books. New projects underway include a critical collection on Indigenous histories of allotment and privatization, co-edited with White Earth Ojibwe historian Jean O’Brien, and an Indigenous steampunk novel. This coming year he will be teaching the FNIS Research Practicum as well as a speculative fiction course in the English Department.

## LINC KESLER

As in the several past years, Linc worked this year at the First Nations House of Learning and the President’s Office, and, starting in July, he goes on leave after fifteen years of work that began at FNIS. Who knows? He may come back in a while to teach a class or two. Linc wants to thank all the students and faculty, and especially Tanya, his first and best colleague at UBC, for making FNIS the great program it continues to be. He wishes you all the best for next year.



## DAVID GAERTNER

This has been an exciting year for new media and digital storytelling with FNIS! The winter term, FNIS 454 students worked with staff at the new Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre to develop Information Communication Technology (ICT) prototypes, helping to conceptualize user engagement with Truth and Reconciliation Commission data. Students in FNIS 401W partnered with the Indigitization initiative to create digital exhibitions out of a large archive of photos, making them accessible to and searchable by researchers. FNIS 401W also hosted an Indigenous media Wikipedia edit-a-thon and worked with Cherokee poet Jason Lewis on digital remediations of his work. The Indigenous New Media Collective and *Unceded Airwaves* also had another fantastic year, producing some vital content around the Cormier and Stanley trials, as well as episodes on cultural appropriation and territorial acknowledgements.



## GLEN COULTHARD

This year, Glen remained heavily involved with our partnership with Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning in Yellowknives Dene territory, doing part of his regular teaching there. He has also been working with Tanya Bob deepening partnerships at the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning. The French language version of Glen's 2014 book, *Red Skin, White Masks*, was published this year. He continues work on his current project, examining the Tanzanian connection of George Manuel and the Fourth World Movement of the 1970s.



## DORY NASON

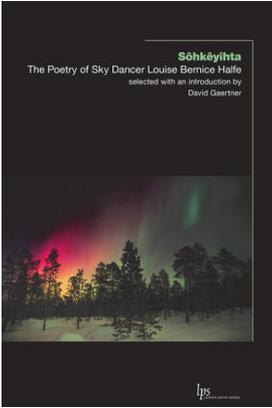
Dory's achievements this year include: a successful grant proposal partnering with the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, acceptance as a research associate with the Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology, and presenting her research on archives to the British Columbia Library Association's annual meeting. Both of her current research projects focus on best practices in answering the TRC calls to action in first-year curriculum, across research units, as well as in libraries and archives, with a particular focus on developing guidelines and curricular supports for ethically engaging with digital materials, particularly residential school testimonies. In addition, she is the current Status of Women Chair for the Faculty Association and looks forward to improving equity and diversity in a variety of initiatives this upcoming year!

## SARAH HUNT

This year Sarah traveled to Aotearoa where she was hosted for three weeks by Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato. More locally, she collaborated with Peers Victoria Resources Society on a SSHRC-funded project fostering community and self-representation among Indigenous sex workers. Sarah released several co-authored reports this year, including *Access to Justice for Indigenous Adult Victims of Sexual Assault* (with Prof. Patricia Barkaskas) and *Indigenous Communities and Family Violence: Changing the Conversation* (with Dr. Cindy Holmes). Look for Sarah's forthcoming book chapters on Indigenous methodologies and murdered & missing Indigenous women, both due out in 2018.



# Faculty Publications



## **Sôhkêyihtha: The Poetry of Sky Dancer Louise Bernice Halfe**

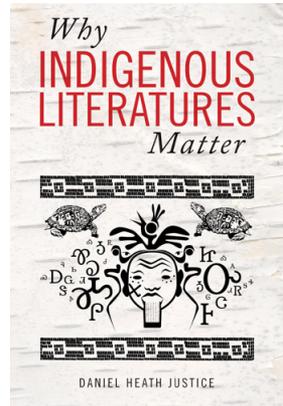
by David Gaertner

Since 1990, Sky Dancer Louise Bernice Halfe's work has stood out as essential testimony to Indigenous experiences within the ongoing history of colonialism and the resilience of Indigenous storytellers. Edited with an introduction by David Gaertner, *Sôhkêyihtha* includes searing poems, written across the expanse of Halfe's career, aimed at helping readers move forward from the darkness into a place of healing.

## **Why Indigenous Literatures Matter**

by Daniel Justice

Part survey of the field of Indigenous literary studies, part cultural history, and part literary polemic, *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* asserts the vital significance of Indigenous writing to the political, creative, and intellectual efforts of Indigenous peoples today. Blending personal narrative and broader historical and cultural analysis with close readings of key creative and critical texts, this provocative volume challenges readers to critically consider and rethink their assumptions about Indigenous literature, history, and politics while asserting the power of story to effect personal and social change.





Cecilia Federizon (left) and Louise Soga (right), from the CIS staff team.

# CIS Staff Update

CANDICE YU

**This past February**, we said our goodbyes to Kaeleigh Hiebert, who has been a valuable staff member of our community these last four years. Despite the loss of Kaeleigh's calm and compassionate presence, we wish her all the best as she takes on new opportunities for her career development. Madison Mussell and Karie Hanson joined us temporarily, and we are beyond grateful for their contribution and support while they were here. Similarly, we are appreciative of the commitment and creativity brought by our Work Learn Student Project Assistants, Sage Broomfield and Melissa Webb. Their presence and voices were essential to the purpose of the work we do.

These goodbyes lead to welcomes. In February, our new Program Assistant, Cecilia Federizon, joined the team. Cecilia graduated from UBC with a BA, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice. Her studies have helped her pursue her passions in media and anti-oppressive work by creating her own podcast. In April, we welcomed Louise Soga into the Senior Program Assistant role. Louise was born and raised in Vancouver, and brings along extensive institutional knowledge and experience. We are thrilled to have Cecilia and Louise join our community! ●

**CANDICE YU is a Taiwanese settler who currently works as the Administrator within the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies. Previous to this role, she worked as the Senior Program Assistant within the First Nations and Indigenous Studies program.**



## An Overdue Sabbatical: FAREWELL TO LINC KESLER

SHERYL LIGHTFOOT

Linc Kesler with the Talking Stick gifted to him by Musqueam Elder Larry Grant. Photo courtesy of Paul Joseph.

On May 8, our community of colleagues, friends, community partners, students, and former students gathered to recognize and honour the leadership and accomplishments of Dr. Linc Kesler, who is stepping down from his role this year as Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs and Director of the First Nations House of Learning, to enjoy a much deserved and long overdue sabbatical.

Speakers recognizing Dr. Kesler's many accomplishments over fifteen years at UBC included Longhouse Director Debra Martel, FNIS major Adina Williams, and alumna Vicki George. Musqueam Elder Larry Grant presented Dr. Kesler with the gift of a Talking Stick in recognition of the positive relationship he has helped build and maintained with the Musqueam people.

Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot highlighted two areas of Dr. Kesler's innovative leadership.

Dr. Kesler designed the Research Practicum as the capstone of the FNIS

major. In the Research Practicum students collaboratively design and implement a full-year research project in partnership with Indigenous community organizations to meet particular needs expressed by the community. While many universities talk about Indigenous community engagement, Dr. Kesler's vision for the Practicum at the centre of Indigenous Studies made FNIS path-breaking fifteen years ago and still makes it the leader in the field.

Second is the 2009 UBC Aboriginal Strategic Plan, an unbelievably progressive intervention at that time that is, again, largely due to Dr. Kesler's leadership and community engagement in action. Dr. Kesler also led the development of the new 2018 UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan.

All of us in FNIS wish Dr. Kesler a wonderful sabbatical! You will be greatly missed. ●



*Linc Kesler and Sheryl Lightfoot share a laugh with Victoria Tauli-Corpuz at the Longhouse.*

## Global Indigenous Rights Lecture

SHERYL LIGHTFOOT

ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2017, the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies was proud to co-host, together with the First Nations House of Learning, the second annual John P. Bell Global Indigenous Rights Lecture featuring an evening with United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz.

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, a Kankana-ey from Besao, Mt. Province, northern Philippines, is an Indigenous leader, social development consultant, civic leader, human rights expert, and an advocate of women's rights. She is the founder and executive director of Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education), a global Indigenous institution based in Baguio City, Philippines. She is currently serving as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz was the former Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the highest advisory body on Indigenous issues within the United Nations system, from 2005-2009. She was an Expert for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the United Nations Voluntary

Fund for Indigenous Populations. She was a former commissioner of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. She was a Philippine government delegate to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as REDD Plus lead negotiator, and was a co-chair of the convention's working group on REDD Plus under its Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA).

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz founded and managed various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in social awareness raising, the promotion of Indigenous peoples' and women's rights, and research and development work. She was the convenor of the Asian Indigenous Women's Network and the Indigenous Peoples' Global Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development. She sits on the board of several international environmental and rights organizations.

The First Nations House of Learning was packed to hear Ms. Tauli-Corpuz speak about how the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, along with the various Indigenous rights mechanisms at the United Nations, can enhance and support Indigenous rights activism and advocacy in local settings and national contexts. ●



Grand Chief Edward John at the official opening ceremony of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at the University of British Columbia Monday, April 9, 2018. Photo courtesy of Abigail Saxton.

# Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre Opening

LINC KESLER



**O**N APRIL 9TH THIS YEAR, a special ceremony marked the opening of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at UBC. The Centre has been built to provide access on the West Coast for IRS survivors and their families to the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to provide curricular support and public information on the Indian residential schools and the broader historical patterns of which they were a part, and to provide a location for ongoing community and university interactions.

The opening ceremony began with the delivery of a statement of apology on behalf of the University by President Ono. The apology acknowledged UBC's complicity in the system that instituted and maintained the schools and other policies, and for failing to challenge or educate about them. It also acknowledged that, without developing better ways of thinking and talking about Indigenous issues, we allow the ways of thinking that supported the schools to continue.

Following the apology, four Indigenous people spoke: Barney Williams, a survivor and elder who was an advisor to the TRC and is part of the governing circle of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation; Cindy Tom-Lindley, a survivor and current chief executive officer of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society; Grand Chief Edward John, a survivor, political leader, and West Coast member of the governing circle of the National Centre; and Adina Williams, an intergenerational survivor and FNIS student. Many other survivors and UBC community members were among the hundreds who attended the event, and many stayed to tour the Centre.

The plan for the Centre began in 2010 in conversations between FNHL staff and the leadership of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society. Former UBC president Stephen Toope committed the capital funds before leaving UBC, and subsequent presidents and others contributed over time to carrying the project forward.

The road to the Centre opening was a long one, but it is proof of something that every FNIS Practicum student knows: that seeing a need, defining a strategy, and staying persistent through the many changes and obstacles that a project can involve, can, in fact, result in change. Be sure to visit the Centre in the fall when it will be fully open and operational. ●

# A Subtle Revolution:

*what lies ahead for  
Indigenous rights?*

## SHERYL LIGHTFOOT

Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot  
reads at the panel  
discussion of her book.  
Photo courtesy of  
Becky Bonzom.

September 2017 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration or “UNDRIP”). FNIS held two high profile events that celebrated the occasion and also asked important and pressing questions, of both academic and practical significance, about Indigenous rights and their implementation in Canada and the world.

On September 13, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration by the General Assembly, FNIS co-sponsored, along with Simon Fraser University’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement, a panel discussion with Professor Sheryl Lightfoot titled “A Subtle Revolution: What Lies Ahead for Indigenous Rights?”

Recognizing the notable change in political environment since 2007, Dr. Lightfoot discussed how attention on Indigenous rights and the UN Declaration has grown exponentially in that time, especially since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Final Report and 94 Calls to Action call for implementation of the UN Declaration to form the framework for reconciliation in Canada. She also spoke about its increasing role in other countries’ legal and constitutional frameworks.

Even with all of this attention however, the Indigenous world remains under severe stress. As Dr. Lightfoot said, “From Brazil



to Botswana, from Australia to Ecuador, from Myanmar to Standing Rock, Indigenous peoples are on the front lines, fighting for their cultural survival, their languages, their ways of life, their political and legal institutions, their territories, including lands and waters, their lives. In fact, the UN reports that 2016 had the highest number of deaths of human rights defenders, globally, than any other year in recorded history.”

The UN Declaration is one tool that Indigenous peoples around the world are using to defend their rights, and Dr. Lightfoot highlighted three themes from her 2016 book, *Global Indigenous Politics: A Subtle Revolution*, for Indigenous rights activists and movements to keep in mind for going forward. First, the UN Declaration has grassroots origins and motivations. Second, states have always actively and creatively resisted the UN Declaration – even while claiming to support and uphold it. We must stay vigilant and continually hold them accountable. We must consistently point out when state behaviour is inconsistent with and falls short of their own statements and their own promises. We must continually point out

the facts of when states are not in compliance with international human rights standards. Third, we must use it. The UN Declaration is a living document that will only gather force if we use it, and its ultimate success depends on our willingness to use it. It helps us reclaim our humanity which has long been denied and diminished by nation states, and particularly the settler colonial states.

Dr. Lightfoot was joined by a panel of distinguished speakers including Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Dr. Priscilla Settee from the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Heidi Kiiwetinepinesik Stark of the University of Victoria, and Rachel George, also from the University of Victoria. ●



Griffin Award-winning poet and scholar Billy-Ray Belcourt visits with UBC students.

## Speaker Series:

in Conversation with Billy-Ray Belcourt and Karyn Recollet

DAVID GAERTNER

With the support of CiTR and the Indigenous New Media grant, FNIS was fortunate to host/co-host two rising stars of Indigenous Studies, Dr. Karyn Recollet and the scholar/poet Billy-Ray Belcourt. Both visitors generously shared their work on storytelling, land, love, and what Dr. Recollet refers to as the “‘kinstillatory’ connections between human and non-human entities.”

Belcourt’s visit came together out of an outpouring of love for his recent book of poetry, *This Wound is a World* (Frontenac House). FNIS partnered with UBC’s Indigenous literature reading group, the Simon Fraser University English Department, and a number of independent Vancouver poets to bring Belcourt to Vancouver for two readings: at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre and the UBC Longhouse. Both readings were standing room only and featured appearances by poets Samantha Nock and Dallas Hunt. A special thanks to Mercedes Eng and Cecily Nicholson for moderating these special events.

Dr. Recollet visited us via Skype, after some unforeseen travel complications, for a lecture on Indigenous mapping and work she is developing on “jumping scale,” that is moving across terrestrial, subaqueous, and celestial modes of being as a means of holding space for past and



future relations and more-than-human kin. Her lecture, “Sakhiwawin: Land’s Overflow into the space-tial ‘Otherwise’” included a tour through the stars, analysis of Pussy Vortex, the first video by Bay Area-based queer Indigenous rapper Dio Ganhdi, and a workshop in which audience members, using construction paper and markers, sketched out their own consent maps.

We are very grateful to Billy-Ray and Karyn for sharing their time, knowledge, and stories with us and we look forward to building future conversations out of this remarkable work! ●



# Alumna Profile *Nicole Cardinal*

**Nicole Cardinal is Dakelh, Irish, and Ukrainian. Her home community is Stellaquo, BC, and she is a member of the Luksilyoo clan. She is a life giver to two beautiful daughters and married to her nicimos from high school, Chris Cardinal.**

One of Nicole's cherished memories happened in the spring of 2017 when she walked across the stage to receive her Bachelor's degree in First Nations and Indigenous Studies, alongside her husband, with her daughters in attendance.

Since graduation, Nicole has been working at Indigenous Services Canada in community development. Her unit is unlike any other within the Federal government, allowing her to support BC First Nations to self-determine and build capacity based on their unique cultural practices and

beliefs. As a self-proclaimed "Matriarch in training," Nicole applies community based theory to her work every day in her role as a community initiative research officer. This experience has given her momentum as she prepares to return back to school in September to begin her Master's in Indigenous Community planning at SCARP. This new journey will allow Nicole to bring theory into action, based on Indigenous knowledges and ways of being to life, and continue to empower First Nation communities.

# Practicum Summary

TANYA BOB  
GLEN COULTHARD  
MELISSA WEBB

This year, nine FNIS students took part in the fourth-year Research Practicum and put theory into community practice applying decolonizing research methodologies. Students were paired with various organizations on the traditional territories of the xwməθk-wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and Tsleil-Waututh (Burrard) peoples. Two practicum placements this year were off-site and paired with organizations in student's home territories: Treaty 1 territory (Winnipeg) and the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw territories. Students worked with organizations to collaborate, design, and implement projects to address organizations, and communities, research needs. At the end of the semester, the Practicum students presented their projects to the Musqueam and UBC communities.

Research Practicum partner organizations and communities this year include: Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation, Carnegie Community Centre, Britannia Community Services Centre, the Vancouver Art Gallery Library and Archives, Robert Lee YMCA Immigrant Services, Onashowewin Justice Circle, Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society, Pivot Legal Society, and the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre.

Thank you to the students for their tremendous work this year. As many of these students are completing their degrees, we wish them the best with the next chapters of their lives! ●

Research Practicum students Georgia Wilkins, Melissa Webb, Olivia Santacrocce, Melissa Haberl, Dee Sharp, Lucy Haché, Samatha Martin-Ferris, Samantha Myran and Melissa West Morrison after their presentations at the Liu Institute. Photo courtesy of Dylan Hamm.





**Melissa Haberl is a German and Austrian settler from Epekwitk (PEI). She is a recent FNIS and history graduate who enjoys the freedom of springtime, dry cappuccinos, and reading scathing Twitter threads.**

# Student Reflection

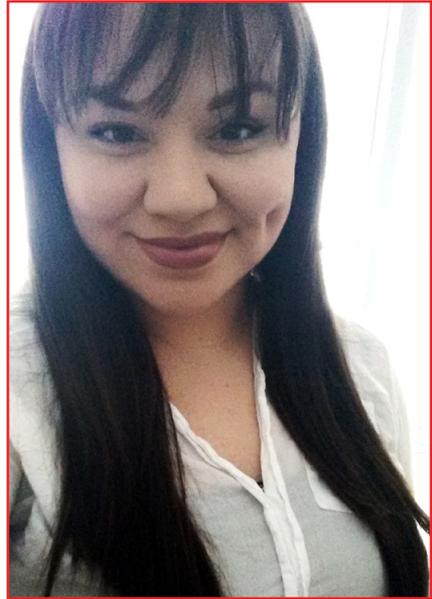
Melissa Haberl

**I AM MELISSA HABERL**, a settler student and second-generation immigrant of German and Austrian descent raised on the Mi'kmaq territory of Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island). This year I finished my degree in history and FNIS with a focus on histories of Canadian settler colonialism and settler national imagining and mythology.

My practicum placement was with Robert Lee YMCA Immigrant Services. During the project, I assessed gaps in information in current YMCA educational programming for newcomers on Indigenous peoples, histories, and experiences in Canada and gathered knowledge on how to develop and deliver a new Indigenous-focused program in a meaningful way.

The project was illuminating for me in respect to how settler colonialism operates in the context of immigration and new immigrant education and in terms of the challenges and potentials of fostering change within non-profit institutions. While Practicum involved a lot of work, the research, the relationships, and the analyses I developed throughout the year made it one of the most meaningful times of learning and growth of my degree. ●

**Samantha Myran is Ojibway and a member of Long Plain First Nation in Manitoba. She graduated in May and is continuing her academic pursuits at Robson Hall School of Law in Winnipeg.**



**BOOZHOO, I'M SAMANTHA MYRAN**, an Anishinaabekwe from Ginooshkodeyaang (or Long Plain) in Southern Manitoba and this year I graduated from UBC with a Bachelor's in First Nations and Indigenous Studies. For my Practicum, I was approved for off-site placement in my home territory, the Treaty 1 traditional territory of the Ojibwe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene, and Metis peoples.

My partner organization was Onashowewin Justice Circle located in the heart of downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba. In a field dominated by statistics as a measurement of success, this collaborative project challenged such intentions giving agency and voice to the clients and workers reporting on the successes of Onashowewin. My experience at Onashowewin has shown me what a successful program looks like in the Restorative Justice (RJ) field. The RJ principles and values I learned there have bettered my understanding of the justice system of Canada, knowledge I will carry with me as I start my first year of Law School this September.

Chi Meegwetch FNIS and Onashowewin Justice Circle! I could not have hoped for a better experience. ●

## Student Reflection

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Samantha Myran



# Student Profile

## Matthew Norris

**Matthew Norris was born in Surrey, BC, and grew up in Semiahmoo First Nation territory. He now lives in Vancouver in the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Tseil-Waututh, and Squamish First Nations. Matthew is Cree (Nehiyawak) and is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band in northern Saskatchewan.**

**M**y journey into Indigenous politics and advocacy began in First Nations and Indigenous Studies at UBC. I owe a debt of gratitude to FNIS and to the amazing and inspirational professors and staff who opened my eyes to the historic and contemporary systems of oppression and marginalization which continue to impact the lives of Indigenous peoples throughout our home communities. I have carried this knowledge and passion into my graduate studies in the Department of Political Science at UBC and beyond.

FNIS represented not only my first steps along my intellectual path but also the first step along my professional journey working with Indigenous communities. I learned valuable professional skills as the Project Assistant for FNIS and as Research Assistant for Dr. Daniel Justice, at that time FNIS Chair, as the founding President of the First Nations Studies Student Association, and as a Practicum student, which provided me with the absolute privilege of working with the Kwikwetlem First Nation. Since then my career has taken me many places, always with a focus on working with Indigenous communities. Currently I am focusing my efforts

on the realization of Indigenous Title and Rights as affirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the context of the Canadian state. It has been my privilege to work as a Policy Analyst with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, a position which just this year has taken me to the United Nations Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, wherein I was provided the opportunity to address the floor on the importance of Canada's Bill C-262 and the need to create a national action plan to fully implement the Declaration without qualifications. In a way this was the closing of a circle that began at FNIS, where in Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot's class I represented the UBCIC in a mock model of the same UN Permanent Forum. I owe much to this amazing program, as it has provided me the intellectual and professional momentum that continues to fuel my passions and my career.

**Kinanāskomitin.**

# Race, Gender, and Colonization:

BY SARAH HUNT

*It reminded us that we cannot talk about power or sexual violence without talking about race.*

**O**n April 3, Musqueam speaker and community leader Cecilia Point stood up to provide words of welcome to a packed theatre of people who had come to campus to witness a conversation about race, gender, and the academy. Standing with members of the Indigenous Law Students Association, Cecilia then raised her voice to sing the Women's Warrior Song. It was a fitting start to the events that followed, as the indomitable Professor Anita Hill took the stage, sharing her insights on sexual violence, race, and power gleaned through the years since she publicly (very publicly) revealed her experience of being sexually harassed by her boss, then-nominee and now US Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas. As co-sponsor of the event, First Nations and Indigenous Studies saw this as an opportunity to both draw connections between the way our institutional culture is experienced by Indigenous, Black, and other racialized women, Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary people, as well as to reflect on what has happened at UBC since the introduction of our new policy to address sexual violence.

Although it has not been widely publicized, much work has been going on

behind the scenes since the UBC Board of Governors approved the new Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct Policy, which took effect May 18, 2017. One significant change is the hiring of Myrna McCallum in the position of Director of Investigations. Myrna, of Cree-Métis ancestry, is an alumna of UBC's Indigenous Legal Studies program as well as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. She brings a wealth of experience as a Crown prosecutor, defence lawyer, and an Independent Assessment Process Adjudicator hearing experiences of sexual, physical, and psychological abuse from residential school survivors. The hiring of an Indigenous woman into such a key position in responding to sexual violence at UBC is of great significance – hopefully one of many steps to put Indigenous and other racialized people in key roles which can change the nature of rape culture here and in academia more broadly.

These types of leadership changes were among many visions for transformation put forward at last year's Decolonizing Rape Culture event, which brought together students, community members and scholars to engage with diverse Indigenous perspectives on ways to dismantle

# Addressing Sexual Violence at UBC

*We can't talk about power or sexual violence without talking about colonialism.*

rape culture in the context of ongoing settler colonialism. Building communities based on consent, rooted in Indigenous practices and principles, was also a key point of discussion.

Since that time, the #MeToo movement, led by Hollywood actresses, has featured prominently in social media, mainstream media, and pretty much every other social and political outlet. Sexual violence is out in the open, as is the misogyny which normalizes violence against women, not just in Hollywood but across all areas of society. However, conversations about race and colonization remain on the fringes of these media spectacles. This is why Professor Hill's visit to campus was so vital – it reminded us that we cannot talk about power or sexual violence without talking about race. And, I would add, we can't talk about power or sexual violence without talking about colonialism.

Indeed, during the same week as Anita Hill took the stage at UBC, the Vancouver hearings of the national inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls began. As many of our faculty, staff and community members move across

community and institutional spaces, we still have much work to do in making deeper connections between the normalization of sexual violence on campus and at home, on the streets and in our classrooms, in movies and in everyday life. As the new policies at UBC are rolled out and new initiatives undertaken, we will continue to contribute to a culture shift in which institutional practices can come into better alignment with the needs and lived realities of all our relations – demanding change that truly addresses the root causes of violence against Indigenous people, Black people and other people of colour, Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary people, women, and youth. Transforming rape culture in universities requires not only better policies and processes, and the hiring of diverse staff in key roles, but also a willingness to change our individual practices in which consent culture can be built into every interaction. ●

# Deepening Partnerships and Expanding Opportunities

*At the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning*

*words by*  
**EMMA FELTES**

**Emma Feltes is a researcher, writer, policy analyst, and community organizer based in Coast Salish territory. She is pursuing a PhD in Anthropology at UBC.**

**O**VER THE PAST YEAR, the partnership between FNIS and the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning has grown and flourished. FNIS staff and faculty have been working together to deepen this partnership and create new opportunities for UBC and northern Indigenous students to come together and engage in experiential land-based learning in the north.

Based on the traditional and unceded territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN), Denendeh (Northwest Territories), Dechinta is a northern-led initiative delivering land-based educational experiences led by Indigenous leaders, experts, Elders and professors. Its programs tackle some of the most pressing issues for Indigenous communities in northern Canada and support a new generation of students, researchers, and community leaders

*Trout drying in the smoke tent.  
Photo courtesy of Alexa McPhee*

by providing practical and meaningful learning experiences based in Dene knowledge and practice.

In order to build new opportunities for students at Dechinta that formally recognize the importance of place-based learning in the north, we have created a new course code in Indigenous Land-Based Studies (INLB) and developed twelve new courses in this area. Expanding upon existing place-based course offerings in FNIS, these courses span a wide range of subjects, from decolonizing health to gender justice to the politics of sustainability. Each course integrates leading-edge scholarly instruction with Indigenous pedagogies and research methodologies.

This fall, three UBC FNIS students will travel to Dechinta, where they will join northern and

Indigenous students in a full semester of courses in Indigenous Land-Based Learning. With instruction from a small team of academic and community faculty—including Elders and community knowledge holders—these students will move seamlessly between academic material and land-based learning, such as fishing, gathering medicine, and storytelling.

Myia Antone, one of the three students attending Dechinta, offered these thoughts: “I am so excited to attend Dechinta in the fall! I think it will challenge me in a different, but good way compared to a normal classroom setting. I am going with an open mind and an open heart and ready for a transformative way to end my undergrad!” ●

# Indigenous New Media Collective

DAVID GAERTNER

With many thanks to the Equity Enhancement Fund (EEF), the Indigenous New Media Collective, a unique collaboration between CiTR 101.9fm and the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program, was an enormous success. The project provided for a safe, productive, and creative space for Indigenous and allied students to produce media across a variety of platforms, including a weekly broadcast/podcast (*Unceded Airwaves*), a monthly column on Indigenous issues, published in *Discorder Magazine*, and a variety of workshops and public talks on topics such as Indigenous new media, cultural appropriation, digitization, and documentary film.

In January, the project helped to bring Métis filmmaker Tasha Hubbard to UBC for the Vancouver debut of her film *Birth of a Family*. The Collective also played a significant role on campus during the Gerald Stanley and Raymond Cormier verdicts: generating two high-impact broadcasts/podcasts on racism and the Canadian judicial system, which were shared broadly across Canada via social media.

Building on an existing archive of *Unceded Airwaves* material there are now over eighty hours of archived Indigenous focused content available for download via the CiTR website. With the grant we were also able to fund *Carving Space*, a radio documentary series on Indigenous issues created by Indigenous and allied students on campus. *Carving Space* will be available as a podcast series, complete with curricula for use in the classroom in the late fall. ●

*Carving Space  
& Generating  
Indigenous-Focused  
Content*

## A Student Reflection

Autumn Schnell

### Vahn Gwinzii!

Now that the winter semester is over, our Indigenous Collective is slowing down for the summer. But that doesn't mean we're gone for good! We will be back next school year (September 2018) with new content, new faces, and season 4 of *Unceded Airwaves*.

We want to thank you for being such awesome and dedicated listeners/readers! If you want to get involved (or stay involved!) please contact [volunteer@citr.ca](mailto:volunteer@citr.ca), or send us a Facebook message at *Unceded Airwaves* and we'll try to connect you with someone most suited to answer your questions!

# Collective

Dr. Tasha Hubbard speaks  
about her new film.  
Photo courtesy of Varun Saran



## **Birth of a Family with Tasha Hubbard**

*Building Connection and Enacting  
Transformation*

MELISSA WEBB

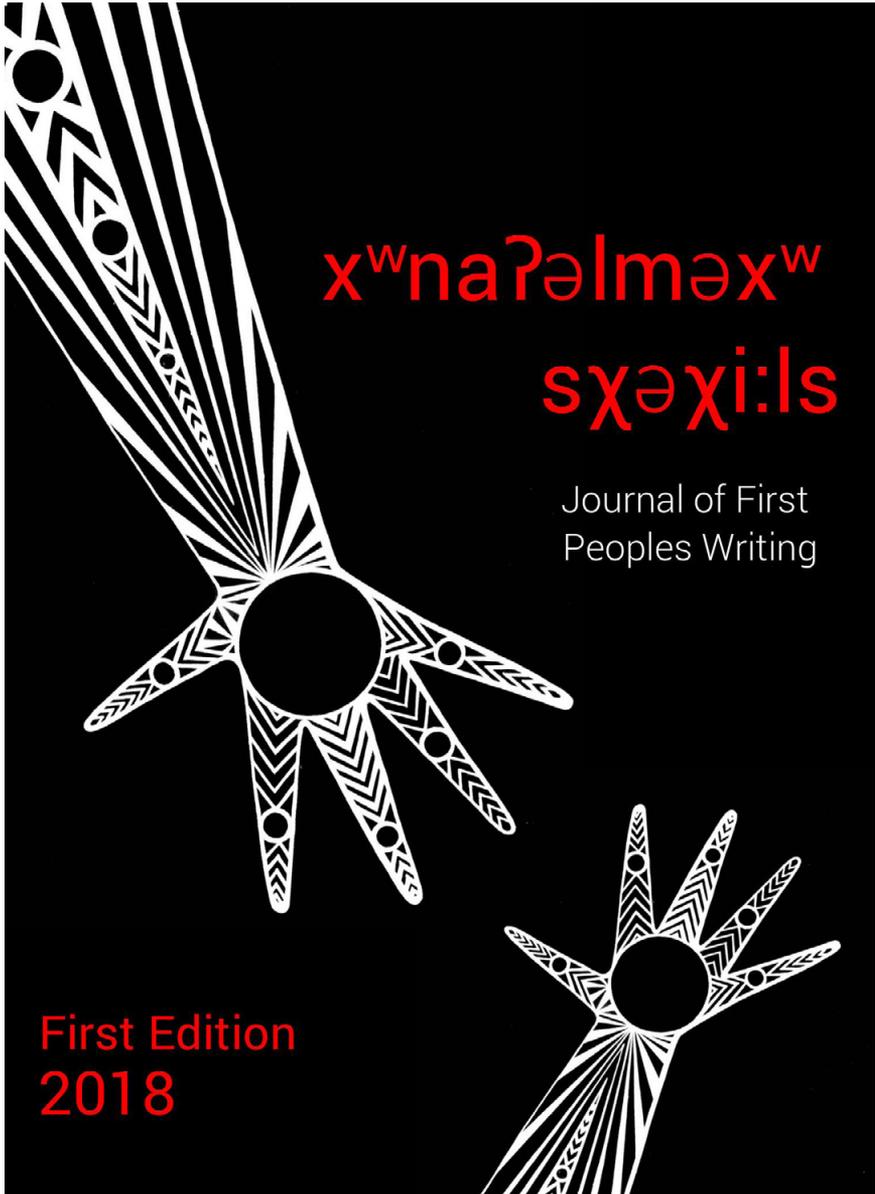
On January 24th, FNIS, the Indigenous New Media Collective and SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement hosted Tasha Hubbard for a screening of her documentary, *Birth of a Family*. Hubbard (Cree) is an award-winning filmmaker and an Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta who brought forward her tremendous knowledge and skills to create *Birth of a Family*, a documentary about four siblings, Betty Ann, Esther, Rosalie, and Ben, removed from their young Dene mother as part of Canada's infamous Sixties Scoop.

This screening was significant for many reasons. It was the first time this film was screened in Vancouver and without this collaboration between FNIS, the Indigenous New Media Collective, and SFU, this would not have been possible. It also created an opportunity for many students, scholars, family,

and the Indigenous community together to foster a discussion about healing, restoration, and transformation. Through film, Hubbard's screening strengthened relationships wide and far. The screening was followed by a conversation with Hubbard and two of the siblings featured in *Birth of a Family*. There was also a nephew at the screening who was meeting parts of his family from the film for the first time.

Thank you to Tasha, Betty Ann, Esther, Rosalie, and Ben for sharing these joyful, emotional, and powerful stories. ●

# JOURNAL *of* FIRST PEOPLES WRITING



xʷnaʔəlməxʷ

sɬəxɪ:ls

Journal of First  
Peoples Writing

First Edition  
2018

## Centring Indigenous and Decolonial Voices in Undergraduate Writings

ALEXA MCPHEE  
SARAH SISKA

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**As an open-access, student-run, and peer-reviewed undergraduate journal created by students here at the University of British Columbia, we have dedicated ourselves this year to honour our relationships with the x<sup>w</sup>na<sup>?</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy<sup>?</sup>əm community, while centering Indigenous voices in undergraduate writings.**

*x<sup>w</sup>na<sup>?</sup>əlməx<sup>w</sup> sɣəxi:ls* was originally started as a blog by a group of FNSSA students, to showcase written and creative works by Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at UBC — with the last blog post being published in November, 2014. After falling off for a few years, our goal this year was to reinvigorate the *x<sup>w</sup>na<sup>?</sup>əlməx<sup>w</sup> sɣəxi:ls*, and relaunch it as an undergraduate journal. We extend our gratitude and thanks to the students before us who put in so much labour and work into creating the original blog. From them, we inherited a fantastic base to build off of, and continue to grow.

Grounded in a collective reimagining of what it might mean to publish on unceded x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy<sup>?</sup>əm land, we sought to move beyond the exclusionary nature of academic publishing to create an accessible publication that was grounded in resistance, embodied knowledge, and, most importantly, love. A love for ourselves, a love for our communities, and a

love for the land that we live on. By interrogating power relations and their social impacts, we seek to hold up the voices that dissent, that critique, that experiment.

*x<sup>w</sup>na<sup>?</sup>əlməx<sup>w</sup> sɣəxi:ls* grew out of what we saw as an unacceptable gap in the academy — a gap that makes publishing undergraduate work in critical Indigenous and decolonial studies significantly more difficult than in other disciplines. Our mandate is to bring visibility to the importance and value of Indigenous voices and studies both as an integral contribution to the academy, and as necessary voices of critique. We thank x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy<sup>?</sup>əm for the privilege to work and study on their lands, and are forever grateful to Elder Larry Grant for gifting us with our journal's name, *x<sup>w</sup>na<sup>?</sup>əlməx<sup>w</sup> sɣəxi:ls*.

*If you're interested in helping out with the journal for the 2018-2019 academic year email us at [first-peopleswriting@gmail.com](mailto:first-peopleswriting@gmail.com). To view the inaugural edition of the journal, visit our website at: [www.firstpeopleswriting.com](http://www.firstpeopleswriting.com) ●*

*The cover for *x<sup>w</sup>na<sup>?</sup>əlməx<sup>w</sup> sɣəxi:ls* was designed by Melissa Haberl and edited in collaboration with Sarah Siska.*

# A Graduate's Reflection

Marie Weeks

**Marie Weeks is a settler of Irish, French, and British ancestry and a recent grad of FNIS. She enjoys hanging with her family, making friends, and riding her bike.**



**M**y time in the FNIS program has been a time of intense learning. It has also been a time of building powerful, close relationships. Faculty and content were obviously very important to my learning, but the strength and support I experienced in our small cohort has been equally as important for my growth. As a settler student in the program, I believe I had a unique role as witness and listener. The academic material that laid out the history of colonization in Canada was explored in tandem with the powerful chronology of Indigenous resistance from the time of first contact.

It has been a year since I walked across the stage with some dear friends and I can see that FNIS, and Practicum in particular, provided me with a sturdy foundation from which I have been able to jump. The program has also changed how I interact in my personal relationships including how I relate to spaces and land.

Thank you to the Musqueam people for the opportunity to learn and grow on their unceded, traditional, ancestral territory, and for the generosity of the community to allow me the privilege of learning hənqəmīnəm.

# First Nations Studies Student Association

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BEVERLY MA  
ALEXA MCPHEE  
SARAH SISKA

**A**t FNSSA, we hope to create a space for students to come for community, a good laugh, and to provide our peers with the reassurance that we're all blindly stumbling through our degrees together. That's why we have an open-door policy. There's no application process or requirements you need to meet to get involved. If you want to get involved, we'll find a place for you — whatever your time commitment (or lack thereof) or interest is.

The conversations we have are no easy feat. While the work and emotional labour we participate in can be exhausting at times, the refusal, resurgence, and love of the communities around us keeps us going. We extend our gratitude and thanks to our hosts, x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm. We are a group that brings students together to engage with the Indigenous community on and off-campus. In our weekly meetings this past year, we've spent our time together working towards publishing the first edition of x<sup>w</sup>na?əlməx<sup>w</sup> sɣəxi:ls. In gathering we show our collective support to amplifying the voices of local communities. This past semester we organized group outings to attend both the DTES Women's Memorial March and Kwekwecnewtxw: Protect the Inlet — helping to ensure these events were accessible and supportive for those in our community

We thank all of the unconditionally supportive faculty and staff. I thank my fellow FNSSA members and all our FNIS students. We are constantly motivated and inspired by the work we all do, and the community we are continuously building. We are grateful for Joshua Shepard Cerda, who will be taking over Alexa's role as President and Beverly Ma, who will be taking over Melissa's role as Treasurer. And, to

Beverly Ma is a first-generation Chinese Canadian, and is grateful to grow up on unceded x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm, Słkw̓wú7mesh and səliłwətaʔl territories. She will be treasurer for FNSSA in the upcoming semester, and will be pursuing her fourth year in FNIS and Geography (Environment and Sustainability).

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Alexa Mcphee is proudly a mixed Japanese, Mi'kmaq, and white fourth year double major in FNIS and Political Science. She is passionate about Indigenous feminisms, community well-being, and has an affinity for art and sneaker shopping.

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Sarah Siska is a settler of mixed European descent, lucky enough to grow up on the beautiful northshore of lake Kitchi Gami, on Anishinaabe land.

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our incoming president Joshua, thank you for continuing to lead and organize FNSSA. We look forward to re-grouping in September and wish everyone a wonderful summer.

***We hold our hands up.*** ●



# Student Art

MELISSA WEST MORRISON

This print is a (re) imagining of the world through ovids. It's a participation in the growing dialogue that looks at ways to rethink and redefine maps and their colonial usage of the dispossession of Indigenous peoples on their traditional homelands. The piece participates in the movement to continue to work to (dis)place the colonial gaze and centers on the practice of holding up Indigenous sovereignties. Further, it hopes to be a reminder that we are always on Indigenous land and is an invitation to begin the journey of knowing the land you are blessed to walk, travel, learn, and live on.



MELISSA WEST MORRISON

*Melissa is Kwakwaka'wakw and Chinese. She comes from the 'Namgis First Nation, Yalis (Alert Bay). As a recent undergraduate at UBC (May 2018), Melissa majored in First Nations and Indigenous Studies and minored in Law and Society.*

# Current Major

Adina  
Williams

**Adina Williams is from the Squamish Nation and descends from the 'Namgis peoples from Alert Bay, B.C.**



**H**a 7th skwayel! The first time I heard about First Nations and Indigenous Studies at UBC was during my first year as a science student at Capilano University. During one of my visits to the UBC Longhouse, I came across the summer 2014 edition of *The Raven*. I was truly amazed with all of the incredible work that FNIS students, staff, faculty and alumni were doing on campus and in the community, and I immediately knew that I wanted to be a part of this program. It was not long after this that I began my application to UBC. Making this switch was the best decision I've made as a student.

My experience in FNIS has been phenomenal. Being able to take so many courses with significant Indigenous content, each course with its own focus, has helped me better understand how to approach some of the work that I am currently

doing with Indigenous communities in a more meaningful way. Furthermore, I've met many wonderful people in the program who continue to inspire me with the brilliant work they are doing. I am always grateful for everyone who is a part of FNIS, and I thank you all for being such a welcoming and supportive community at UBC.

*Huy chexw a. Gilakas'la*



*The inaugural FNIS Indigenous London Go Global study abroad course Cohort with CIS affiliate faculty member Dr. Coll Thrush. Summer 2016.*

**FNIS.UBC.CA**

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