INDIGENOUS RESEARCH DAY

07 November 2023

HOSTED BY

Indigenous Research Institute
Indigenous Studies Department
Indigenous Health Learning Lodge
Feast Centre for Indigenous STBB Research
University Advancement
Indigenous Student Services
Indigenous Health Movement
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tân’si, boohzoo, good morning, nitôtem’tik

Welcome to the second annual Indigenous Research Day at McMaster University, co-hosted by the fabulous forces of McMaster Indigenous Research Institute, Indigenous Health Learning Lodge, Indigenous Studies Department, Indigenous Student Services, The FEAST Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research, University Advancement, and the Indigenous Health Movement.

The McMaster Indigenous Research Institute welcomes you to our campus and onto the unceded territories of the Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. I have two land acknowledgements to share:

I want to honour the original caretakers of these lands and waters. The Mississaugas of the Credit, Six Nations of the Grand River and the Wampum Belt covenants called Dish With One Spoon and Two Row that govern these lands.

While there is one side who has not honoured the Two Row and Dish With One Spoon covenants to date, I want to commend the Six Nations and Mississaugas for doing their best to manifest the values and principles of these wampum covenants. You have honoured the relationship with the lands, waters, animals, and plants. You have stood strong against the British Crown and iterations of the Canadian Government (156) who have sought to systemically disrupt, control, and damage our Indigenous nations and territories. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our future generations.

I want to share with you my personal favourite land acknowledgement. It goes like this, “Wherever you go, there you are on Indigenous land.” Short, sweet and most importantly ... accurate. Land acknowledgements are tricky things, and I respect that in many arenas they are spoken more and more often. But as many Indigenous folks may tell you, land acknowledgements are only the beginning. Today we celebrate and showcase Indigenous research in action. Our schedule is jam packed, but our presenters are stellar, and the food will be yummy and plentiful.
We have an amazing line up of presenters today, folks who are doing compelling, provocative, and important work in the field of Indigenous Studies.

Little bit about our format if this is your first Indigenous Research Day at Mac experience. This day is organized into three sessions and within each of these sessions there are four presentations. Each presentation is 15 minutes. You still with me? A 10-minute table chat follows for each session where the audience will discuss with others at their table the four presentations and come up with 1-2 questions for the panelists. With the remaining 20 minutes, the panelists will take some of these questions from the audience.

We are also looking forward to our keynote speaker, Dr. Bonnie Freeman. Dr. Freeman is the successful 2023 candidate for the 'Indigenous Scholar in Community Fellowship’, and she'll be sharing some of that research with us today.

Have a fantastic day, feast on the wonderful meals, enjoy the research being shared with you, and engage in these critical conversations.

ekosi,

Savage Bear

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| 11:15 – 11:30 | Dr. Vanessa Watts  
Dr. Amber Dean | "Who Gets What?: Archival and Community-Engaged Research in an Era of Reconciliation" |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | Dr. Patricia Farrugia  
Matt Bolis | "Needs Assessment: Understanding the Experience of Marginalized Populations - Focus on Indigenous Populations: A Survey of Patients Attending McMaster Fracture Clinic" |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Hannah Butterworth | "Community Driven Physical Activity Strategies for the Prevention of Dementia in First Nations Communities in Canada: A Scoping Review" |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | Ethan Michalenko | "AI-OSPE: An Artificial Intelligence Software for Grading Anatomy Examinations" |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | All Session Two Presenters | Table Chat and Q&A |
| Lunch     | Lunch                                            |                                                                     |
| 1:30 – 2:30  | Dr. Bonnie Freeman  
Indigenous Scholar in Community Fellowship, 2023 | "The Kaswenta: Deepening Our Understanding of the Three White Beads Between the Purple Rows" |
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<td>Kaeliana Smoke, Emily Anson, Norma Jacobs</td>
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<td>Traditional Closing – Elder Myeengun Henry</td>
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Session One – Presentation One:

Kurtis Commanda, PhD student in Cognitive Science of Language, McMaster University

Dr. Ivona Kučerová, Professor of Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities, and Director of McMaster’ Centre for Advanced Research in Experimental and Applied Linguistics (ARiEAL)

Owennatekha (Brian Maracle), Co-founder of Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa, Six Nations

Lynette Printup, M.A. in Linguistics, Executive Director of Bundled Arrows Inc.

Tehatiwennatethe’tanyons They Shine Light on the Languages

Tehatiwennatethe’tanyons is a project with the goal of supporting Indigenous language revitalization by sharing information and methods from proven and effective Indigenous language programs, as through the creation and distribution of a Blueprint, a publicly available database of resources and lessons learned of the programs involved with this project.

The project is a collaboration between Onkwawenna Kentyokhwa (OK), a Mohawk adult language program, Nǝyǝkwawǝtǝʔkwahšek Tuscarora Language Program (NTLP), a Tuscarora adult language program from New York, Twatati, an Oneida adult language program, and McMaster University. This project began in 2018, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. All of Tehatiwennatethe’tanyons partners are adult language programs based in Canada and the US; the information in this blueprint may be less applicable to language revitalization programs based outside of North America or which do not perform adult language education. In this presentation we will discuss the process and experiences of working in this decentralized network of collaborators.

Kurtis Commanda

Kurtis Commanda is a Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee PhD student in Cognitive Science of Language at McMaster, currently studying the history and discourse of understudied languages in linguistics.
Kurtis has been working with Tehatiwennathey’anyons as a research assistant since the completion of his MA in 2022. His work has consisted of research and writing, connecting Tehatiwennathey’anyons to the existing language revitalization literature and synthesizing the insights of the project’s partners into written form.

Dr. Ivona Kučerová

Ivona Kučerová is Professor of Linguistics and Director of McMaster’s Centre for Advanced Research in Experimental and Applied Linguistics (ARiEAL). Her research has over the last seven years shifted from theoretical and experimental linguistics toward the intersection of theoretical and applied linguistics, specifically, in the domain of Indigenous language reclamation. She currently holds two federal grants, with Indigenous partners, that focus on language reclamation in the domain of adult immersion, and infant- and children -oriented languages, including lullabies.

Owennatekha (Brian Maracle)

Owennatekha (Brian Maracle) is the co-founder of Onkwawenna Kentohkwa, a Mohawk language adult immersion program on the Six Nations Grand River Territory. Based on a root-word dictionary written by Kanatatawkon (David Maracle) he developed a curriculum that enables students with no prior background in the language to become highly proficient speakers over two school years. He taught the program for 23 years, from 1999 to 2022.

The program has had a major impact on the Six Nations Territory and beyond. The program’s graduates are teaching at the pre-school, elementary, secondary, university, online and community level across southern Ontario. The Onkwawenna Kentohkwa curriculum has been translated into all of Mohawk’s sister languages and is being used to teach adult programs in communities. Onkwawenna graduates have established a Mohawk language elementary immersion school attended by 75 students from pre-K to Grade 8. Graduates also established the first-ever Mohawk-speaking longhouse at Grand River, where all the traditional ceremonies are conducted entirely in the Mohawk language by Onkwawenna graduates. In recent years Onkwawenna Kentohkwa has partnered with the National Research Council to create Kawennonnis, a Mohawk verb generator and Kawenninekens, a Mohawk text-to-speech voice synthesizer.
**Lynette Printup**

Lynette Printup, Tuscarora Turtle clan, M.A. in Linguistics. Executive Director of Bundled Arrows Inc a 501(c)(3) corporation located in Niagara Falls, New York.

Lynette’s language career began in 2006 when she and the rest of the language team were introduced to the very successful Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa Mohawk immersion program and immediately began working with Onkwawenna to redesign the Tuscarora language program.

In 2012, she co-founded the Nęyękwawętaʔθkwahshek Tuscarora Language Program (NTLP) with Betsy Bissell. In 2017, they organized Bundled Arrows Inc to provide the infrastructure necessary to acquire funding for NTLP as well as other organizations in the community.

By 2019, the NTLP converted the OKM curriculum into the Tuscarora language and welcomed adult learners into the 2-year Tuscarora Language Adult Immersion Program.

**Session One – Presentation Two:**

**Carrie McMullin, M.A., Knowledge Broker Manager, Office of Community Engagement**

**An Environmental Scan of Indigenous-Informed Teaching Practices at McMaster University: Some Results and Recommendations for Educators**

This presentation will share the context behind an environmental scan conducted in Spring 2023 which sought to understand more about current practices, and attitudes towards decolonization, or, Indigenization of course content at McMaster University. The scan garnered more than 70 responses from across 5 Faculties at McMaster providing a snapshot of what and how educators understand their roles as agents of change, and how they are engaging with indigenous histories, and ways of knowing in the post TRC era. Some results, and recommendations for educators will be shared.
Carrie McMullin

Carrie McMullin is an urban Indigenous woman, born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario, and is the current Knowledge Broker Manager for the Office of Community Engagement at McMaster University. Carrie’s maternal family is from the Six Nations of the Grand River community. Carrie has studied and worked at McMaster University for 10 years, in the departments of English and Cultural Studies, History, and Indigenous Studies. Carrie’s research interests are in local and Indigenous histories; nationalisms; and education.

Session One – Presentation Three:

Lori Davis Hill, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Health, School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences

Journey to Language as Medicine

Indigenous languages embed the teachings and relationships between all of creation in their structure and along with culture are foundational for Indigenous wellness. Indigenous identity is found in the braiding together of language, culture, and context. An individual’s identity is impacted by the ability or inability to speak the language of their people (Berryman et al., 2022). It is therefore imperative to understand the healing benefits of connection to language. The goal of this work is to inform language revitalization efforts about the personal impact of gaps in access to language and culture and contribute to future language planning.

This session shares the presenter’s doctoral journey of the development of the “Language as Medicine” project. Through Indigenous storytelling, it explores community understanding of the importance of ancestral languages in relation to contemporary social and cultural needs and creates an opportunity to acknowledge and support language yearners. This is a journey to understanding potential pathways to language as a medicine that heals the spirit and connects us to who we truly are (Lickers, 2021) with a sense of belonging felt by self and community.
Lori Davis Hill (she/her)

Lori Davis Hill is a mother, wife, auntie, and friend. She is Oneida, Wolf Clan, Haudenosaunee from Six Nations of the Grand River. She was the first Indigenous Speech Language Pathologist trained in Canada and has practiced clinically in both urban and rural, hospital and community settings. She has held several leadership positions including Clinical Coordinator, Team Manager and Director of Health Services at Six Nations of the Grand River.

Lori is a Doctoral Candidate completing doctoral studies at Royal Roads University with a focus on an intersectional and interdisciplinary contribution to Indigenous language reclamation and revitalization. Her research project “Language as Medicine” grounded in Indigenous methodology explores healing through the journey of (re)connection to Indigenous language, culture, and identity.

Lori was recently appointed as Assistant Professor, Indigenous Health in the School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University. She is committed to blazing trails, building relationships, and making connections between people who can influence making healthcare a safe place for Indigenous people now and for the faces yet to come.

Session One – Presentation Four:

Dr. Bernice Downey, Associate Dean, Associate Professor, Indigenous Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, and Indigenous Health Learning Lodge

Whose Knowledge – Who’s Translation? The need to address the Dissonance Between Western Models of Knowledge Translation and the Sharing of Gikendaasowin - Indigenous Knowledge

In population health research, effective knowledge translation (KT) is critical to implementing program and policy changes that require shared understandings of knowledge systems, assumptions, and practices. KT in Canadian health research contexts is often defined as “the process(es) through which knowledge is transformed into action”. However, mainstream research on Indigenous people has largely been
void of culturally relevant, meaningful, engaging, contextual, or decolonizing knowledge. This is a situation that has potential to perpetuate the status quo of inequitable health outcomes related to CVD/s and heart failure among Indigenous peoples. This session will discuss the dissonance between Western and Indigenous KT approaches and explore elements for a pathway to change.

Dr. Bernice Downey

Dr. Downey is a woman of Ojibwe and Celtic heritage, a mother and a grandmother. She is a medical anthropologist and her current research interests include Indigenous Women’s Heart Health, health literacy and Indigenous Traditional knowledge and health/research system reform for Indigenous populations. She is a Heart & Stroke Foundation- CIHR (Early Career) Chair in Indigenous women’s heart and brain health. She is also the inaugural Associate Dean, Indigenous Health for the Faculty of Health Sciences and a former Director of the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute.

Dr. Downey has participated on multiple national and international Indigenous research policy initiatives including:

- Two-term member of the Canadian Institute of Health Research- Institute of Aboriginal Health, Institute Advisory Board.
- Planner and participant to the International Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge Development (INIHKD).
- Chief Executive Officer of the National Aboriginal Health Organization whose mandate included a strong research-knowledge translation focus.

As part of her post-doctoral fellowship role with the Department of Graduate Studies at McMaster, Dr. Downey led the development of the innovative Indigenous Undergraduate Summer Research Scholars Program (IUSRS) and the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute (MIRI).
Session Two – Presentation One:

Dr. Vanessa Watts, Assistant Professor, Paul R. MacPherson Chair in Indigenous Studies, Department of Sociology and Department of Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr. Amber Dean, Professor of English and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Who Gets What?: Archival and Community-Engaged Research in an Era of Reconciliation

Our project, “The Challenge of Reconciliation: What we can learn from the stories of the Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium and the Mohawk Institute Residential School” is one year into its research objectives. One area study is focused on community engagement with, and archival holdings related to Inuit who have been impacted by the former Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium for treatment of tuberculosis. Over the past year, our team has been engaged with various levels of research ethics boards as well as hosted community-engaged events. Our presentation will provide an overview of: our experiences as a research team with respect to challenges and successes in our attempts to gain archival access to historical records; what community-engaged research has brought to the fore in terms of the potential for repatriation of sensitive archival documents, and; the politics that shape what access looks like for Indigenous-led research teams and communities in an era of reconciliation.

Dr. Vanessa Watts

Vanessa Watts is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Indigenous Studies at McMaster University, where she also holds the Paul R. Macpherson Research Chair in Indigenous Studies. Her research examines Indigenist epistemological and ontological interventions on place-based, material knowledge production. Vanessa is particularly interested in Indigenous feminisms, sociology of knowledge, Indigenous governance, and other-than-human relations as forms of Indigenous ways of knowing. Dr. Watts was awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for her project that interrogates over a century of representations of Indigenous peoples in sociology and political science. It will contribute to new knowledge in the field of Indigenous studies through an inductively generated concept map of Indigenous understandings of social beings. Dr. Watts was nominated for the YWCA Woman of Distinction in Community Leadership
Dr. Amber Dean

Amber Dean is Professor of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Her research focuses on public mourning, violence, and cultural memory, and contemplates what makes a life widely “grievable” in the context of contemporary, colonial Canada. She is also interested in how creative forms of cultural production (fiction, art, photography, film, performance) disrupt and reframe common-sense understandings of whose lives (and deaths) matter. Dr. Dean is the author of Remembering Vancouver’s Disappeared Women: Settler Colonialism and the Difficulty of Inheritance, and co-editor of Remembering Air India: The Art of Public Mourning, with Chandrima Chakraborty and Angela Failler. With Susanne Luhmann and Jennifer L. Johnson, she also co-edited Feminist Praxis Revisited: Critical Reflections on University-Community Engagement. Dr. Dean was named McMaster’s University Scholar in 2021, an award that supports her community- and student-engaged project on the Hamilton 2SLGBTQ+ archives.

Session Two – Presentation Two:

Dr. Patricia Farrugia, Assistant Clinical Professor, Surgery, Faculty of Health Sciences

Matt Bolis, Second-Year Undergraduate Student, Bachelor of Health Sciences

Needs Assessment: Understanding the Experience of Marginalized Populations – Focus on Indigenous Populations: A Survey of Patients Attending McMaster Fracture Clinic

Due to the many barriers impacting healthcare experiences for Indigenous populations, it is integral that the presence of anti-Indigenous racism and common barriers to care in past/current healthcare experiences be identified. Our project aims
to elucidate the challenges faced by Indigenous patients when attending the McMaster Pediatric Fracture Clinic in order to work towards the creation of a culturally safe clinical environment for all. This is being done through an exploratory quantitative survey offered at the clinic with various multiple-choice and Likert-scale questions.

Our survey was carefully developed with a strong commitment to maintaining confidentiality and respecting participants, which was based on Canadian Guidance on the Use of Standards for Race-Based and Indigenous Identity. We prioritize non-forced identification and offer all the participants the autonomy to self-identify as Indigenous without pre-screening, acknowledging the sensitive nature of this information.

The survey offered to all participants is comprised of two sections: the first caters to anyone attending or supporting pediatric patients at the clinic and gathers demographic information along with socioeconomic, accessibility, cultural and communication barriers and their satisfaction with the clinic. The second section of the survey is exclusively for self-identifying Indigenous participants and delves deeper into experiences of anti-Indigenous racism, challenges within the healthcare system and the prioritization of cultural resources to enhance healthcare experiences.

Prior to commencing our study, we reviewed this project with members of the Indigenous Health Network and the Indigenous Health Learning Lodge. We maintain collaborative and ongoing communication with the Indigenous Health Network by continually involving them in research updates, data interpretation, and data-sharing activities to maintain Indigenous data sovereignty principles.

Surveys will be analyzed to identify trends and validate experiences of anti-Indigenous racism while strictly adhering to OCAP® principles, which prioritize the Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession of Indigenous data by Indigenous communities. These principles are integral to our approach and ensure that Indigenous communities have full ownership of their data, maintain control over its use and have the right to access and possess it. By increasing the amount of data and literature available on Indigenous patient experiences in a fracture clinic setting, we strive to bring more equitable care to a population that has traditionally been, and still is, experiencing the impacts of colonization through anti-Indigenous racism.
Dr. Patricia Farrugia

Dr. Patricia Farrugia is of Anishinabe Ojibwe descent from Saugeen-Ojibway territory. She was raised in a mixed settler and Indigenous way of life. After attending medical school at McMaster University, she went on to complete her Orthopedic Surgery residency, followed by additional fellowship training in the orthopedic subspecialties of Trauma and Foot and Ankle.

Currently, she is the Chair of Indigenous Health of the UGME program as well as the Pre Clerkship Integration Foundation Director. Following the recent success of her Masters in Health Research Methodology with supervisor Mohit Bhandari, Patricia continues to participate in orthopedic research opportunities as well as Indigenous scholarly projects.

Matt Bolis

Matt Bolis is a second-year undergraduate student in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program at McMaster University. His passion for Indigenous Health research stemmed from high school, where he explored and translated research on the cultural and biochemical value of medicinal plants.

Since then, he has had the opportunity to be mentored by Dr. Farrugia, where he has gained invaluable insights into Indigenous History in Canada and research methodologies in this field. Matt recently undertook a journey to an Anishnawbe First Nations Reserve located 18 hours from Toronto. During this week-long visit, he was warmly welcomed by the community and gained a first-hand understanding of Indigenous culture and traditions. Matt is driven to continue expanding his knowledge and making a positive impact in this important field.
Session Two – Presentation Three:

Hannah Butterworth, BHSc Honours Student, Level IV, Faculty of Health Sciences, IndigiNerds Scholar (2022)

Community Driven Physical Activity Strategies for the Prevention of Dementia in First Nations Communities in Canada: a scoping review

Dementia is currently being recognized as an emerging health concern for Indigenous populations. By 2030 the number of people living with dementia is expected to double, and Indigenous older adults are among the most vulnerable due to barriers to adequate healthcare. Current research, however, is looking into modifiable lifestyle factors that can work to prevent the onset of dementia. Physical activity is among these factors that shows a causal relationship with dementia prevention. However, what is currently known about community driven physical activity strategies that First Nations communities utilize for dementia prevention? Current literature devalues traditional Indigenous practices of physical activity, as such this scoping review will aim to better acknowledge and understand these community driven physical activity strategies for the prevention of dementia in First Nations communities in Canada.

Hannah Butterworth

Hannah Butterworth is Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation, and currently in her 4th year in the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program at McMaster University, minoring in Indigenous Studies. Today she will share the preliminary work that is being done for her 4th year honours thesis, supervised by Dr. Jennifer Walker. This is her second time presenting at McMaster’s Indigenous Research Day, and two years ago she took part in the IndigiNerds program run by the MIRI team, where she was able to build lifelong relationships with passionate and knowledgeable Indigenous faculty and staff at McMaster.
Session Two – Presentation Four:

Ethan Michalenko, Third-Year Student, BHSc, McMaster University

AI-OSPE: An Artificial Intelligence Software for Grading Anatomy Examinations

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered an abrupt shift from in-person to online content delivery, with testing often relegated to an afterthought. Conducting online tests has always been challenging, but assessing materials with a strong visuospatial component, such as anatomy, is especially demanding. This challenge arises from both the scarcity of appropriate images and the complexity of translating Objective Structured Practical Exams (OSPEs), also known as “spot tests,” “practical exams,” or “bellringers,” into an online format. Traditionally, OSPEs have been employed to evaluate students’ anatomical knowledge using cadaveric specimens. These assessments usually involve identifying a structure on a human specimen and asking students physiologically and clinically significant questions under time constraints. Grading OSPEs is a time-consuming task that requires expert content knowledge. These intricacies account for the shortage of high-quality online OSPE resources, which negatively affects students. Our lab has developed software that utilizes AI to grade an OSPE question bank, and our objective is to create an application featuring automated AI grading as a valuable resource for Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) students.

Ethan Michalenko

Ethan Michalenko is a third-year student in the BHSc program at McMaster University. Ethan is a Métis citizen of Ontario, with Métis heritage tracing back to the Red River Colony in Manitoba. Ethan grew up in the small town of Collingwood in Region 7 of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Currently, Ethan is part of a research team in the Anatomy and Physiology department at McMaster, under the supervision of Dr. Bruce Wainman, Dr. Kristina Durham, and Dr. Yasmeen Mezil. Ethan’s aspiration is to attend medical school, become a physician, and work within Indigenous communities.
Keynote Presentation:

Dr. Bonnie Freeman, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences

Indigenous Scholar in Community Fellowship, 2023

The Kaswenta: Deepening Our Understanding of the Three White Beads Between the Purple Rows

The Kaswenta provides the identity, sovereignty, and responsibility to the Six Nations Haudenosaunee in sharing our understanding of Peace, Respect and Friendship with our neighbors along the Grand River and beyond. This presentation will explore the Kaswenta through land/water-based experience that taps into and mobilizes the understanding of knowledge, research and relationships.

Dr. Bonnie Freeman

Dr. Bonnie Freeman is Algonquin/Mohawk from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Her work and research is rooted in connections with Six Nations, the Hamilton Aboriginal Community and other Indigenous communities throughout Canada and the United States. Her research interests are extensive. Her PhD dissertation research examined the journey of Six Nations Haudenosaunee youth, as they traveled on foot through their ancestral lands promoting the message of peace and unity and understanding the transformation of identity and well-being from the connection to land and culture, and self-determination.

Her research is rooted with Indigenous communities that focus on cultural interventions in social work practice, community healing approaches, anti-oppressive practices and decolonization, and indigenous-non-indigenous relations and alliances.
Session Three – Presentation One:

Jill Rogers, PhD Student in Sociology, McMaster University

Fighting to Belong to Indigenous Communities: A Systematic Literature Review of Lateral Violence within Indigenous Communities

Jill is presenting her Masters research on lateral violence within Indigenous communities. Her research consisted of a systematic literature review of lateral violence content that provides a discourse content analysis of material that is publicly made available within Canada. Her research defines lateral violence and how lateral violence is understood within the Indigenous context of Canada by analysis of both academic and grey literature to answer the following research questions: (1) What information on Indigenous-specific lateral violence is currently available, and being distributed publicly within Canada? (2) In what manner is information on lateral violence being delivered? (3) What are the current gaps in the dissemination of lateral violence information? While many themes were identified, Jill will focus on three notable themes in how Indigenous communities perceive lateral violence: (1) fear of speaking out against instances of lateral violence, (2) competition for resources; and (3) the role of social media with lateral violence.

Jill Rogers

Jill Rogers is Anishinaabe with mixed ancestry, Bear clan and a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation. She has completed her Honours Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies, her Master of Arts in Sociology, and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Sociology under the supervision of Dr. Vanessa Watts at McMaster University. Professionally, Jill has worked alongside and with Indigenous community members through her positions at Grand River Mohawk at McMaster Project, Reciprocal Consulting, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, and Indigenous Student Services at McMaster University.
Session Three – Presentation Two:

Hannah Thomas, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Brock University, and IndigiNerds Scholar (2022)

Cypress Hills Starvation Policy

This presentation discusses the history of the Cypress Hills Starvation Policy, a policy put in place by the Canadian government in the early 1880’s to force Plains First Nations people into treaty and onto reservations. The research project aims to further shed light on this Starvation Policy as an act of genocide by using colonial records to ascertain how many people were impacted by this policy, and ultimately how many people died as a result.

Hannah Thomas

Hannah Thomas is a member of the Mohawk Nation, Wolf clan from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is a recent graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Brock University and a former scholar of McMaster Indigenous Research Institute’s IndigiNerds program, working under the supervision of Dr. Robert Innes.

Session Three – Presentation Three:

Kaeliana Smoke, Graduate Student in Sociocultural Anthropology, McMaster University

Emily Anson, PhD Student, McMaster University

Mapping the Peacemaker’s Journey with Elder Norma Jacobs

Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing are weaved together through Storytelling, encoded in dance, song, and art. Ohneganos Indigenous ecological knowledge research project includes a mapping project that invokes ancient stories to inform our future from Creation stories of our lands and waters. By co-creating digital visual stories within a holistic Haudenosanee-centered map that includes the creation of the ‘Great Lakes’ and follows the Peacemakers Journey and Skyworld, all complimented by
archaeological and ecosystem data throughout the Great Lakes region. The co-creation of Haudenosaunee oral histories with Faithkeepers and noted leaders mirrored by plotting archaeological data allows for the braiding of Indigenous knowledge and Western science led by and for Haudenosaunee.

**Kaeliana Smoke (she/her)**

Kaeliana Smoke (she/her) is a Mohawk woman from the territory of Akwesasne and part of the wolf clan. She is completing her Master’s studies at McMaster University in sociocultural anthropology under the supervision of Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill. Her research is focused on mapping and recording stories of intergenerational healing of Residential School survivors and their families, specifically in her home community of Akwesasne. She has worked with Ohneganos since February 2023, when she first started recording knowledge keepers and elders’ stories.

**Emily Anson**

Emily Anson is a PhD student at McMaster University studying under Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill. Emily, a settler archaeologist, left her 13-year career in the field to focus on a decolonial approach to archaeology, including heritage data sovereignty and returning control of archaeological projects to Indigenous communities. She has been working for the Ohneganos project since 2022, contributing archaeological data to the Territories map and working to record and map elder stories as living archives of knowledge.

**Session Three – Presentation Four:**

**Makaśa Looking Horse,** Student, Indigenous Studies, McMaster University

**Hiliary Monteith,** Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in Anthropology, McMaster University
Ohneganos Ohnegahdę:gyo: Traditional ecological knowledge, training, and co-creation of mixed-method tools for water stewardship

Haudenosaunee laws include our responsibilities to abide and govern as elaborated in the Great Law of Peace. This includes our responsibility and giving thanks to all waters in our Thanksgiving Address. The creation story (Tsi Ki tononhwentsison) describes the important relationship that Haudenosaunee peoples have with the water. Water is a sacred entity and plays a critical role in life, livelihoods, spiritual wellness, and ceremonies.

We have depended on the aquifer for drinking water supply, freshwater lakes, and streams for thousands of years, but in less than a century our water rich nation is experiencing a water crisis. Today, less than 10% of Six Nations residents have access to treated potable water even though we are located near cities such as Toronto, Hamilton, and London, which all have access to clean, potable water. Consumptive water takings, such as the proposed permits to remove groundwater from the source with no return flow, are of significant concern to the Haudenosaunee leadership and community, especially the youth. In our Nanfan Treaty, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council (HCC) holds jurisdiction over our waters.

Nestle illegally removed 3.6 million litres per day, and now Blue Triton has assumed Nestle’s plants and continues illegal operation of water extraction with no consultation or engagement with HCC. The recent claims by Blue Triton that they had ‘no response’ from HCC is a fraudulent public claim. On September 14, 2021, our people hand delivered a cease-and-desist order against Blue Triton for illegal water extraction. Their fraud and continued removal of a ‘non-renewable resource’ that is in fact a spiritually and physically a precious life sustaining force to our people and the natural world. Removing aquifer water is an act of violence exacerbated by their willful exploitation and fraud. We denounce the water policies and practices of Blue Triton encroaching on our lands and resources. The government of Ontario has no authority to approve permits on behalf of Haudenosaunee peoples.

Our water governance is a vital aspect of Ohneganos Ohnegahdę:gyo (Ohneganos), a water research program community-led by Six Nations of the Grand River (Six Nations). As part of this work, we have collaborated with Mohawk College to develop bilingual education tools using virtual reality describing Haudenosaunee laws and water stewardship to further support Six Nations youth.
Makasa Looking Horse

Makasa Looking Horse is 26 years of age, born on Six Nations territory, her nations are Mohawk, wolf clan, and Lakota from Cheyenne River Reservation. Makasa’s name translates to ‘Red Earth’ in her Lakota language. She has been trained since a very young age in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Ms. Looking Horse has completed Rites of Passage through both Lakota and Mohawk ceremonies known as Ishnati and Ohero:kon. She has been a Sundance Leader for women the past 13 years. She is a Youth Leader at Six Nations for water protection and security. She has organized many community actions and events; a run to Nestle’s plant to stop groundwater extraction, and organized Climate Change Awareness events for local schools.

Makasa has worked with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Councils to secure a cease-and-desist order, which she handed directly to Nestle’s CEO. Years later, again to Blue Triton. She is pursuing further legal actions against both companies with allies. Makasa attended Kawenni:io Mohawk Immersion Elementary School. She completed Six Nations Traditional Medicine Practitioners course and is a student in Indigenous Studies at McMaster University.

Makasa is the Indigenous Restoration Coordinator for Nature at McMaster University, leading many Indigenous restoration initiatives. She is Youth Leader of Ohneganos, a community led water research project for the past 5 years. She co-created and hosted a live streamed podcast series called Ohneganos: Let’s Talk Water, during the Covid lockdown. The show won the David Suzuki People’s Choice Award. Makasa was recently awarded 2023 Community Scholar Eihwađei /Yerihwayenter: by her Community SNP for her dedication to culture and community work. Makasa was on the Women and Water panel for Mni Ki Wakan Indigenous Peoples Decade of Water Summit 2019 in Rapid City, SD, keynote for American Indian Science Academy, SUNY Buffalo, NY, and presented at The National Conservation international conference in June 2023.

Makasa Looking Horse was nominated by the United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Caucus to do the opening words and blessing at the United Nations Youth Climate Summit in September 2019. She presented at the United Nations side-table at the Indigenous Peoples Permanent Forum in May 2019/2022, and at the UN Water Summit 2023. Makasa has created short films published on www.oheganos.ca website, and has co-authored several scholarly articles.
Hiliary Monteith

Hiliary Monteith is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in Anthropology at McMaster University supervised by Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill and Dr. Adrianne Xavier. She has a PhD in Nutritional Sciences in partnership with Sandy Lake First Nation from the University of Toronto. Her work focuses on socio-ecological factors supporting Indigenous health and wellbeing using community engaged practices. She has supported traditional food initiatives and explored the impacts of colonization on traditional food systems. She is currently working with Sandy Lake First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River to support youth health and wellness, food and water security initiatives, and cultural resurgence. Dr. Monteith is also a Registered Dietitian and aims to support the integration of knowledge to practice within community environments and policy. Hiliary is a settler of Scottish, Irish, French, German, and English ancestry currently residing in Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe territory.
THANK YOU

Niá:wen and Miigweetch for joining us for Indigenous Research Day at McMaster University!