

Radical Hope and Resisting Erasure: A Queer Indigenous Studies Symposium

Native Pathways Speaker Series

FEATURING:

Dr. Chris Finley & SOU Student Panel

WHEN

Friday
April 12, 2019
1:00-4:30 PM

WHERE

Native American
Forum
BSS-162



“ Part of the
decolonizing project
is recovering the
relationship to a land
base and
reimagining the
queer Native body. ”

Dr. Chris Finley is an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity at USC. She received her Ph.D. in American Culture at the University of Michigan. She is a member of the Colville Confederated tribes and is originally from Washington State.

SCHEDULE

- 1:00-2:45 Southern Oregon University Student Panel -
Queer Indigenous Gathering: A Student/Community Intervention to
Unsettle Colonial Logics in Dangerous Times
- 3:00-4:00 Keynote: Chris Finley- A Queer Indigenous Manifesto: Our
Lives and Bodies Are Sacred
- 4:00-4:30 Discussion & Questions





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Dr. Chris Finley

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SOU Student Panel -
Queer Indigenous
Gathering: A
Student/Community
Intervention to Unsettle
Colonial Logics in
Dangerous Times

3:00-4:00 KEYNOTE

Chris Finley- A Queer
Indigenous Manifesto: Our
Lives and Bodies Are
Sacred

4:00-4:30

Discussion & Questions

Chris Finley Abstract: A Queer Indigenous Manifesto: Our Lives and Bodies Are Sacred

Abstract: The violence and dangers of settler colonialism remain deadly realities in the daily lives of Indigenous peoples because colonialism, heteropatriarchy, and dispossession in the United States continues to constitute the political and social landscape. To make this clear, patriarchy and sexual violence are not add-ons of settler colonialism but how settler colonialism continues to operate both within settler and sadly, many Native societies as a result of internalized heteropatriarchy. Without dismantling heteropatriarchy within Native communities, we cannot decolonize. One way Native nations and communities can begin to decolonize is by honoring the bodies and lives of Indigenous women and 2SQ [Two-Spirit Queer] Indigenous peoples as sacred and beloved members of our Indigenous nations and communities.

A Queer Indigenous Gathering: A Student/Community Intervention to Unsettle Colonial Logics in Dangerous Times

Abstract: In 2016, students enrolled in a Southern Oregon University, Queer Indigenous Studies (QIS) course planned and hosted a Queer Indigenous Gathering (QIG). Invited guests demonstrate queer Indigenous theories in their work that serve as critical interventions to disrupt colonial logics and advance decolonizing theories based in specific tribal epistemologies and landscapes. Tammie Barrett, Chinook Nation, illustrates that QIS must be understood as a crucial aspect of Indigenous/Queer studies. Devin Bernstein, Tohono O'odham, talks about intersectional Indigeneity and how QIG participants develop queer theory as they share their stories of indigeneity through their work. Darius Kila, Kānaka Maoli, and Grant Schmechel, Eyak/Athabaskan, share insights about the evolution of the class and the impact the QIG has on local communities and Indigenous students. Torrey A. Hazelquist, ally, discusses student participation in a forthcoming book project that brings together the contributions of those who have participated in the QIG. Considering the current political climate in the United States and elsewhere around the world, in which LGBTQ2+ and Indigenous rights and lives are coming under immediate and severe threats, this student-facilitated roundtable will focus on the urgent need for more scholarship in Queer Indigenous Studies and critical conversations that, through community gatherings such as the QIG, work to bridge academic and community-based efforts to defend, value, and center Queer Indigenous theories, knowledges, and lives.

