Theme One: Land and IK (16)

This theme includes scholarship that addresses Indigenous Knowledges, comprising of relationships to lands, waters and Indigenous cosmologies and cultures. The focus is on Indigenous knowledges as they are expressed by Elders and Knowledges Holders (Primarily Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee but with some inclusion of other Indigenous Nations).

These knowledges may be disseminated through various forms, such as oral and written communication, existing recordings of Elders or Knowledge Holders, ceremonies, languages, social and political systems, performative traditions, food systems as well as other expressions of Indigenous knowledges not named above.

Core Readings:

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Theme Two: Colonialism and Advocacy (17)

This theme addresses the long assault on Indigenous Nations, lands, ecologies and sovereignty starting in 1492. Scholarship is focused on the systemic and ongoing nature of settler colonialism which is manifested in conflicting ontologies, land theft, cognitive imperialism, environmental degradation, violence, racism and micro-aggressions. It stresses the importance of Indigenous advocacy and decolonization movements across Indigenous homelands.

This theme also addresses the challenges, constraints and complexities plaguing contemporary Indigenous-settler relations as a result of the long assault. Reconciliation has become a popular discourse for determining the future direction of Indigenous-settler relations in Canada and elsewhere. There are in fact, many public engagement efforts across Canadian and other settler societies to reconcile relationships and to transform settler consciousness in order to decolonize the way settler society engages with Indigenous peoples. While highly debated in Indigenous communities and Nations, addressing the colonial past includes the activism and public engagement of Indigenous and settler Canadians at the local, regional, national and international levels (e.g. UNDRIP).

Core Readings:

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- Borrows, John., Coyle, Michael, ed. The Right Relationship: Reimagining the Implementation of Historical Treaties. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017.
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Theme Three: Indigenous Resurgence (20)

Indigenous Resurgence reflects Indigeneity by, for and with Indigenous peoples. The theme emphasizes Indigenous Thought and the scholarship produced by Indigenous academic and Community/ Nation scholars about contemporary experiences with Indigenous knowledge. It articulates relationality paying attention to the ways Indigenous peoples are [re]engaging culturally, spiritually, mentally and physically with their homelands, eco-systems, traditional education (including land-based pedagogies), social and political and legal systems, food and medicines, languages, ceremonies and performative traditions.

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- Archibald, Jo-ann. Indigenous Storywork: Educating the Heart, Mind, Body, and Spirit. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.
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Theme Four: Critical Indigenous Studies (13)

Critical Indigenous studies challenges the power and knowledge structures and discourses through which Indigenous peoples have been framed and known. It confronts the construction and representation of Indigeneity in settler societies, including the academy and academic programs (including Indigenous Studies). The theme critically engages externally and internally imposed binaries that hinder the development of positive self-worth and identity among Indigenous peoples such as essentialist gender and/or sexuality representations, urban vs reserve experiences, plus a multitude of other issues currently debated and discussed in contemporary scholarship.

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- Barker, Joanne. Critically Sovereign: Indigenous Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2017.

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