Franz Boas Lives on the North Pacific Coast

Franz Boas’s work among Indigenous peoples on the North Pacific Coast continues to play a crucial role in anthropology’s image of itself as a discipline, at times in inverse proportion to the amount that it is actually still read. In this presentation, I will explore some of the ways that Boas’s work has been deployed, both by anthropologists and by Indigenous readers, and argue for a revitalized engagement with his project as he envisioned it. I will explore this question in the context of the work being done by the Indigenous Advisory Council of the Franz Boas Papers: Documentary Edition, a multi-year SSHRC-funded research project.