

SOCI 430

Decolonizing Sociological Research

Instructors: Rebecca Nelems & Kiana Alexander

Course Description:

Knowledge about whom, for whom and by whom? This course explores the challenges, potentialities and questions inherent to the project of decolonizing sociological research, methodologies and methods. Engaging through the lenses of Indigenous theorists and methodologists mostly from Turtle Island, the ontologies and epistemologies underlying Indigenous and Western approaches to research, knowledge and engagement will be critically examined. What might it mean to decolonize knowledge if decolonization is not a metaphor (Tuck & Yang, 2012)? What responsibilities do all researchers need to consider with respect to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls? Non-extractive, relational and collaborative methods of engagement will be explored with respect to what they offer to this debate. Students will gain hands-on experience of decolonizing methods and will be encouraged to engage in local reconciliation efforts and movements as critical sites of learning.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

Course is intended for Sociology majors. Minimum third -year standing; declared Honours or Major in Sociology; or permission of the Department.

Required Resources May Include:

Atleo, E. Richard. 2004. *Tsawalk: A Nuu-Chah-nulth Worldview*. (Vancouver: UBC Press.)

Kimmerer, Robin. 2013. *Braiding Sweetgrass*. (Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions).

Kovach, M. 2015. "Emerging from the margins: Indigenous methodologies." In L.A. Brown and S. Strega (Eds.), *Research as Resistance: Critical, Indigenous and Anti-Oppressive Approaches*. (pp. 19-36) Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, Inc.

Maracle, *I Am Woman*, Press Gang, 2003

Moosa-Mitha, M. 2005. "Situating anti-oppressive theories within critical and difference-centred perspectives." In L.A. Brown and S. Strega (Eds.), *Research as Resistance: Critical,*

Indigenous and Anti-Oppressive Approaches. (pp. 37-) Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, Inc.

Gaudry, Adam and Danielle E. Laurenz. 2019. "Decolonization for the Masses". Pp. 159-174 in Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Eve Tuck, K. Wayne Yang (Eds.) *Indigenous and Decolonizing Studies in Education*. New York: Routledge.

Hunt, Sara & Cindy Holmes. 2015. "Everyday Decolonization: Living a Decolonizing Queer Politics". *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 19:154–172, 2015:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/10894160.2015.970975>

Qwul'sih'yah'maht (Robina Anne Thomas). "Honouring the Oral Traditions of My Ancestors Through Storytelling." In L.A. Brown and S. Strega (Eds.), *Research as Resistance: Critical, Indigenous and Anti-Oppressive Approaches*. (pp. 237-254) Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, Inc.

Potts, K. & Brown, L.A. 2005. "Becoming an Anti-Oppressive Researcher." In L.A. Brown and S. Strega (Eds.), *Research as Resistance: Critical, Indigenous and Anti-Oppressive Approaches* (pp. 255-286). Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, Inc.

Simpson, Leanne. 2011. *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re- Creation, Resurgence, and a New Emergence*. (Winnipeg: ARP Books).

Starblanket, Gina and Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark. 2018. "Towards a Relational Paradigm – Four Points for Consideration: Knowledge, Gender, Land, and Modernity." Pp. 175-208 in *Resurgence and Reconciliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Earth Teachings*, edited by Michael Asch, John Borrows and James Tully, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Tuck E. & Yang, W. 2012. "Decolonization is Not a Metaphor" *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, 1(1): 1-40.

Tuck, E & M. McKenzie. 2014. *Place in Research: Theory, Methodology, and Methods*. New York: Routledge.

Tuhiwai Smith, Linda. 2012. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* (2nd edition). London: Zed Books.

Tully, James. 2016. "Deparochializing Political Theory and Beyond: A Dialogue Approach to Comparative Political Thought". *Journal of World Philosophies* Volume 1 (Fall 2016), No. 5, pp. 1–18.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report and Recommendations. 2016

Walker, P. 2003. "Colonising research: Academia's structural violence towards Indigenous peoples." *Social Alternatives* 22(3).

Whetung, Madeline and Sarah Wakefield. 2019. "Colonial Conventions: Institutionalized Research Relationships and Decolonizing Research Ethics". Pp. 146-158 in Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Eve Tuck, K. Wayne Yang (Eds.) *Indigenous and Decolonizing Studies in Education*. New York: Routledge.

Wilson, Alex with Marie Laing. 2019. "Queering Indigenous Education". Pp. 131-145 in Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Eve Tuck, K. Wayne Yang (Eds.) *Indigenous and Decolonizing Studies in Education*. New York: Routledge.

Wilson, Shawn. 2009. *Research Is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods*. Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing Co., Ltd. Atleo, E. Richard. 2004. *Tsawalk: A Nuu-Chah-nulth Worldview*. (Vancouver: UBC Press.)