SOCI 438
Decolonizing Methodologies and Methods in Sociological Research

Instructor: Rebeccah Nelems

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 and research in the wake of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and if decolonization is not a metaphor (Tuck & Yang, 2012)? Non-extractive, relational and collaborative methods of engagement will be explored with respect to what potentialities they offer to this debate. Students will gain hands-on experience and will be encouraged to engage in local reconciliation and decolonization efforts and movements as a critical site of learning.

Mode of Delivery:
Tentatively, the class will meet online via Zoom for a synchronous session on Mondays at 2.30pm. Asynchronous online engagement will occur during the week with an expectation that all students will post by Thursday.

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:

Maracle, I Am Woman, Press Gang, 2003


