Uplifting the Indigenous LGBTQ2S+ Community through Indigenous Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention

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They / Them and She / Her
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who am I
workshop flow

• colonizing narratives
• a (re)emergence
• navigating “gender,” “sexuality,” & indigeneity
• contemporary issues + intimate partner violence
colonizing narratives
activity

describe settler colonialism via padlet:
https://padlet.com/cbscott/niwrcwebinar
(settler) colonialism:

• system of technologies that regulates our relations to land and people with the intention to displace, remove, and eliminate an indigenous presence (Scott, 2021; la paperson, 2017; Tuck & Yang, 2012; Brayboy, 2006, Wolfe, 2004).
Indigenous:

• “those who have creation stories, not colonization stories, about how we/they came to a particular place – indeed how we/they came to be a place” (Tuck & Yang, 2012, pp. 6).
additional terms

- **heteropatriarchy**: a social system “in which heterosexuality and patriarchy are perceived as normal and natural, and in which other configurations are perceived as abnormal, aberrant, and abhorrent”

- **heteronormativity**: a social system in which heterosexuality is normalized and considered natural.

- **cisgender**: an umbrella term for those whose "gender" identity aligns with the "gender" they were assigned at birth.
a (re)emergence
“bardache” or “berdache”

still image from *The Meaning of Mahu* [Video File]. Retrieved from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pCThN5y46Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pCThN5y46Q)
Two-Spirit existences

Dr. Myra Laramee
(Fisher River Cree Nation)

• In the 2009 film Two Spirits, the phrase ‘two-spirit’ was explained that non-Natives who encountered Indigenous ways of knowing did not have the cognitive capacity to understand Indigenous complexity because they lacked cultural knowledge.
“We Define Ourselves”,
Artist: Ryan Young (Objibwe),
Mixed Media, 2018

“Love is Medicine”,
Artist: Moe Butterfly (Onôdowa’ga’),
Mixed Media, 2021

“Untitled”,
Artist: Eli (Waganakising band of the Odawa),
Mixed Media, 2018
navigating “gender,” “sexuality,” & indigeneity
The Gender Unicorn

Gender Identity
- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore
Diné positionality

Scott, 2018
Indigenous Feminism

https://dineaesthetics.com/resources/
Indigenous Feminism
https://dineaesthetics.com/resources/

There is "no one feminist theory [that] totalizes Native women's thoughts."

- Devon Abbott Mihasuh (Choctaw Nation),
A Few Cautions on the Merging of Feminist Studies with Indigenous
Women's Studies

"For me, Indigenous feminism is about creating a new world out of
the best of the old."

- Kim Anderson (Metis),
Affirmations of an Indigenous Feminist

"Feminism is also a personal journey."

- Luana Ross (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes),
From the "F" Word to Indigenous/Feminisms

"In developing my knowledge of a history of feminism, it became clear
that defining feminism is an ongoing process involving responding to
changing political and social context and issues."

- Verna St. Denis (Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation),
Feminism is for Everybody
contemporary issues + intimate partner violence
Imagine 100 trans/two-spirit/non-binary/gender non-conforming Natives in a room.

56 attempted suicide.

33 have depression.

29 experienced hate violence.

85 are survivors of sexual assault.

78 are survivors of a physical assault.

#TransDayofRememberance

@GrandmaSaidNo

You can get fired from any Navajo Nation job for being LGBTQ+.

Marriage equality does not exist and continues to not exist because of the Diné Marriage Act of 2005.

Diné Trans women are banned from participating in any local pageantry on the Navajo Nation.

So...yeah.

@ilnativeboy · Jun 14

Currently outside of the Navajo council chambers there are Pride flags displayed... this doesn't mean shit when the Navajo Nation and its President @NNPrezNez dont recognize us as humans in the first place

Show this thread

4:53 PM · Jun 15, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Stats

• 53% have experienced intimate partner violence.
  • (Sovereign Bodies, Year 2 Progress Report)

• Nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents experienced some form of intimate partner violence, including acts of coercive control21 and physical violence, compared to 54% in the USTS sample.
  • American Indian / Alaska Native US Transgender 2015 Survey

• 57% were hit, beaten, physically attacked, or sexually assaulted.
  • UCLA School of Law, Williams Institute, October 2021
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Issues

- Coming Out + Disclosure
- Unsupportive Environments & Communities
- Lack of Access to Inclusive Healthcare
- Public Scrutiny + Stigma
activity

small group + large discussion
q & a
Thank you
Ahéhee’

Instagram / TikTok: @dineaesthetics
Twitter: @GrandmaSaidNo
Blog: dineaesthetics.com
Email: dineaesthetics@gmail.com
resources

- UCLA School of Law, Williams Institute (2021, October). *American Indian and Alaskan Native LGBT Adults in the US: LGBT Well-Being at the Intersection of Race*.