

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

Charlie A. Scott (Diné)

They / Them and She / Her

June 23, 2022

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who am I



workshop flow

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





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colonizing narratives

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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:



Still Here, Artist: Gaia,
Street Art, n.d.

- “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.



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a (re)emergence

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“bardache” or “berdache”



FIGURE 29 "Berdache" by Joe Lawrence. A contemporary view of a traditional role by an American Indian artist.



still image from *The Meaning of Mahu* [Video File]. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pCThN5y46Q>

Two-Spirit existences

Dr. Myra Laramee
(Fisher River Cree Nation)

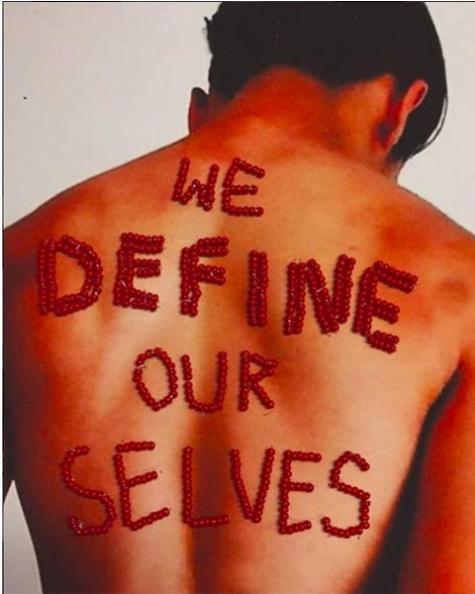


retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegvitalsigns.org/wp-content/uploads/Myra-Laramee.jpg>



retrieved from: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/two-spirits/>

- 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.



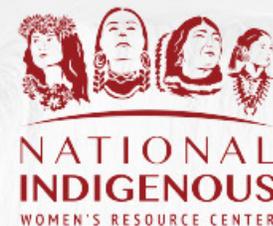
"We Define Ourselves",
Artist: Ryan Young (Objibwe),
Mixed Media, 2018



"Love is Medicine",
Artist: Moe Butterfly (Onödowa'ga:'),
Mixed Media, 2021



"Untitled",
Artist: Eli (Waganakising band of the Odawa),
Mixed Media, 2018



navigating “gender,” “sexuality,” & indigeneity

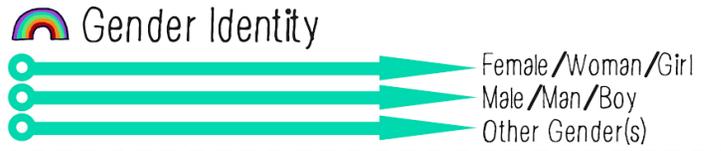
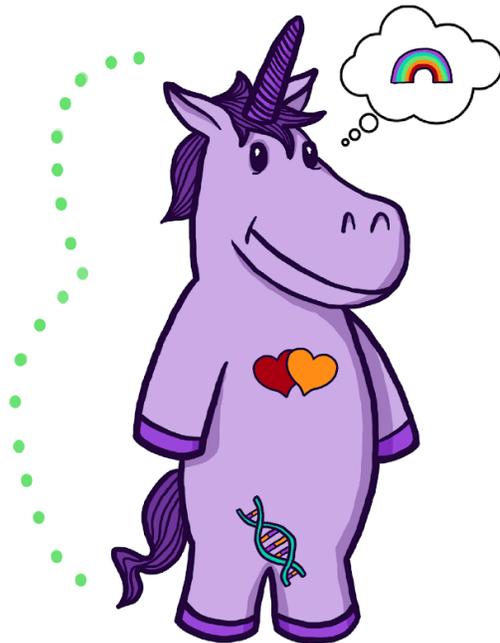
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The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources

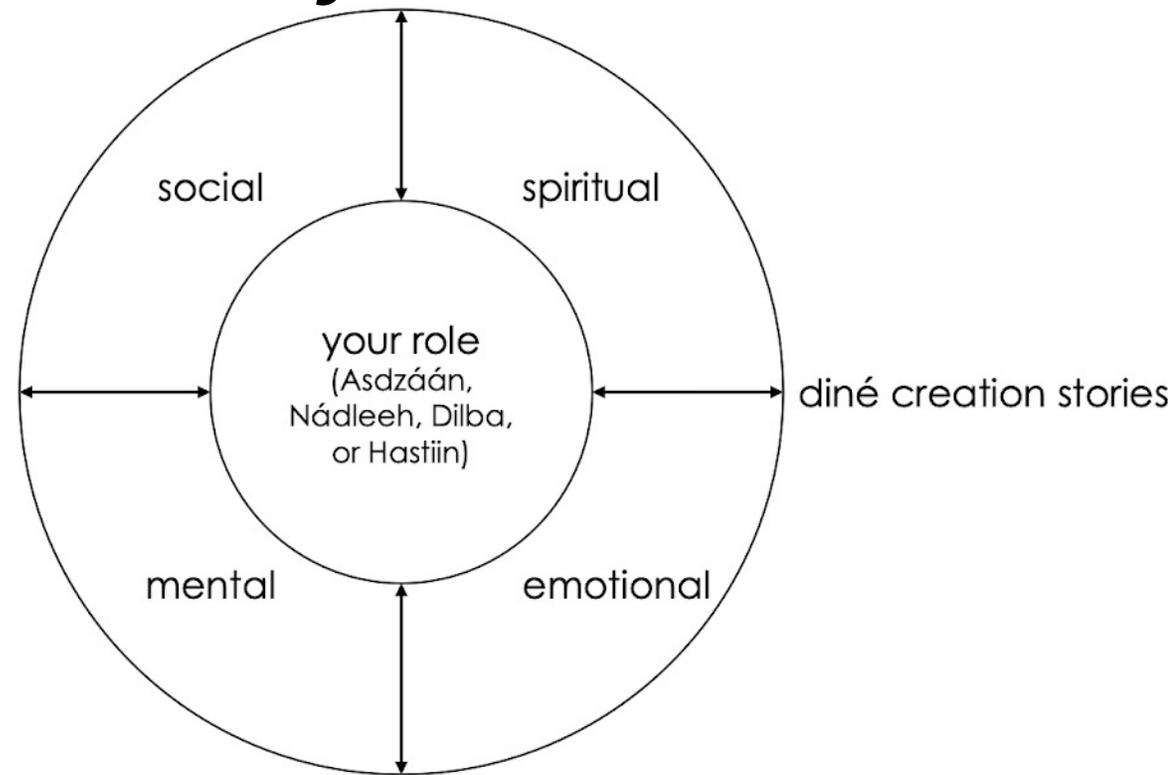


To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore



Diné positionality

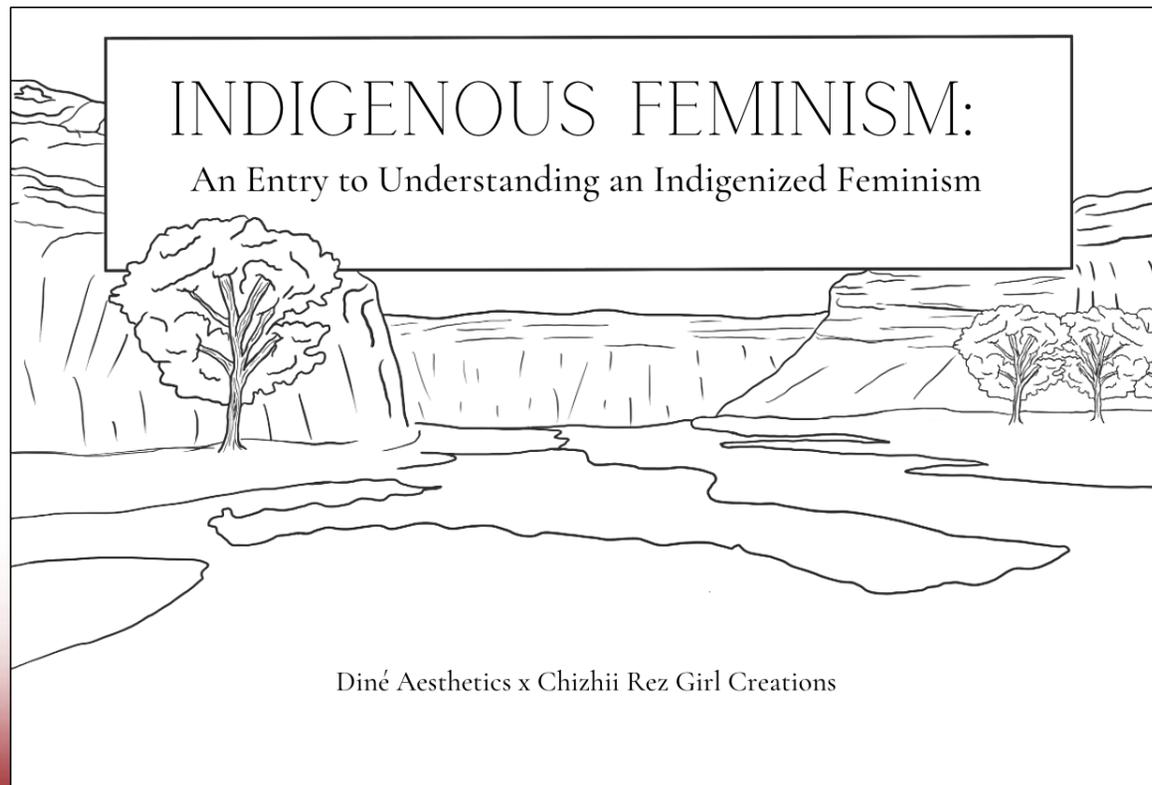


Scott, 2018



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 Mihesuah (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."

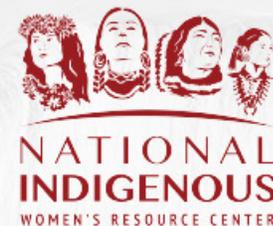
- Kim Anderson (Metis),
Affirmations of an Indigenous Feminist

"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

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charlie | ✨sacred ✨
@GrandmaSaidNo

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](#)

11:35 AM - 20 Nov 2017

48 Retweets 56 Likes



1



48



56



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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.



@lilnativeboy · 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



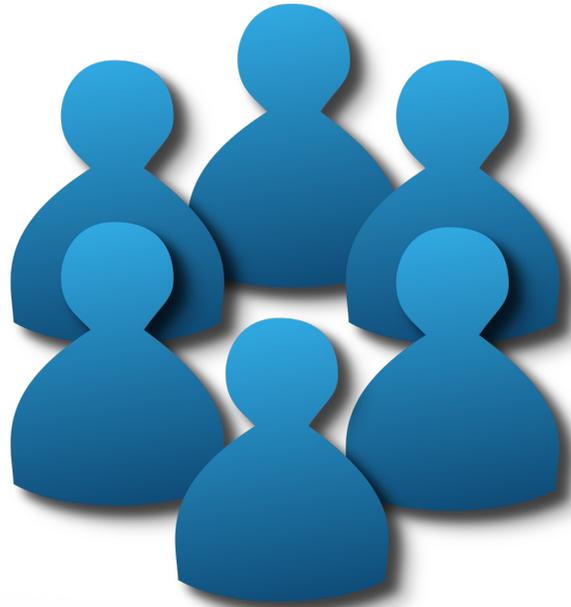
- 53% have experienced intimate partner violence.
 - (Sovereign Bodies, Year 2 Progress Report)
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents experienced some form of intimate partner violence, including acts of coercive control²¹ and physical violence, compared to 54% in the USTS sample.
 - American 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



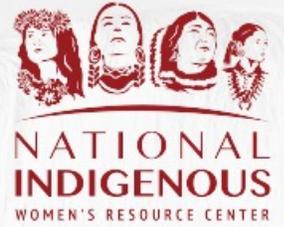
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Thank you Ahéhee'

Instagram / TikTok: @dineaesthetics

Twitter: @GrandmaSaidNo

Blog: dineaesthetics.com

Email: dineaesthetics@gmail.com



resources

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