



FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES PROGRAM ANNUAL PUBLICATION
FACULTY OF ARTS | UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | VANCOUVER

the RAVEN

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DR. SARAH HUNT

GREETINGS FROM THE FNIS/ GEOG
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

**OUR YEAR AT A
GLANCE**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014/15

FNSSA NEWS

UBC'S FIRST POW-WOW AND
UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL

transformation

on the
HORIZON

NEW FNIS AND FNEL COLLABORATION



The Institute for
Critical Indigenous Studies
University of British Columbia

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

PRACTICUM STUDENT
HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015

++ SEE INSIDE

THE MANY FACES OF FNIS—
MAJORS, ALUMNI, INSTRUCTORS,
AND STAFF



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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

MAIZE LONGBOAT

She:ko, hello and thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to read this edition of *The Raven*, an annual publication from the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program (FNIS) in the Faculty of Arts at the University of British Columbia! Inside you will find a review of our Program's eventful academic year, with highlights of student experiences in FNIS classrooms, student and faculty community engagement, new and exciting Indigenous initiatives that are clearing a path in the field and in the world, and much, much more. FNIS is committed to combining world-class Indigenous Studies research with meaningful teaching initiatives for students at UBC and we invite you to read all about the work that we do.

As a first-time editor of such a substantial publication, I certainly found coordinating *The Raven* to be a challenging experience, but it has also been incredibly rewarding. Thank you to *The Raven*'s graphic designer, Kathy Lea, who has been a superstar throughout this entire process, as this gorgeous final product could not have materialized without her expertise, aesthetic insight, and patience. I have also appreciated the support from my colleagues in the FNIS office, without whom I might not have been inspired to pursue a project of this magnitude. Finally, I would like to

send my deepest thanks to all of the contributors whose work reflects who and what FNIS is: a collection of strong, individual voices all working to enrich a vibrant Critical Indigenous Studies community, locally and worldwide. I apologize if I have left anyone out, but please know that your commitments have been absolutely vital to this project. I am so excited to see what 2015-2016 will bring for both FNIS and FNEL under the new umbrella of CIS! Niá:wen.

With humble regards,

Maize Longboat

Maize is a fourth-year student graduating in May 2016 with dual major BA in First Nations and Indigenous Studies and History. Maize grew up on the Lower Mainland, but his Mohawk ancestry hails from the Six Nations of the Grand River in southwestern Ontario. While managing the FNIS website and social media outlets as the Student Project Assistant, he is also responsible for creating *The Post*, the FNIS weekly newsletter.

CONTRIBUTORS Sophie Bender Johnston, Victoria Cooke, David Gaertner, Banchi Hanuse, Sarah Hunt, Salia Joseph, Danette Jubinville, Daniel Justice, Spencer Lindsay, Sarah Ling, Matthew Ward, Matthew Wildcat

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER Kathy Lea, Faculty of Arts

To request copies of *The Raven*, please contact us at fnis.arts@ubc.ca.

ON THE COVER Current Students of FNIS gathered outside of the First Nations House of Learning on UBC Vancouver campus. (From left to right: Reba DeGuevera, Salia Joseph, Maize Longboat, and Victoria Cooke.)

OUR HOSTS UBC Vancouver and FNIS are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm-speaking Musqueam people. We hold our hands up in gratitude for graciously allowing us to live, work, and study on their lands.



A TIME OF *transformation*

DR. DANIEL HEATH JUSTICE

These are difficult times—and transformative ones. From the impacts of climate change on communities and ecologies in the North to the Tsilhqot'in victory at the Supreme Court of Canada, from the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the residential school system to harrowing levels of violence against Indigenous women and girls and the continuing misrepresentations and appropriations of Indigeneity in film, fashion, news, and entertainment, Indigenous peoples are increasingly at the centre of Canadian consciousness, for good and ill.

Given this reality, and the continuing lack of understanding throughout Canada about Indigenous peoples' rights, histories, and achievements... the work of Critical Indigenous Studies is more important now than ever before. We have an important role to play: in the classroom, in our communities, in society at large. We are called upon to bring together the scholarly resources and best research methods of the university with the most robust Indigenous intellectual traditions, ethical values, and ecological and relational practices to address the important issues of our time and the world we share. Critical Indigenous Studies looks inward as well as outward, and challenges us to reflect on our own commitments and engagements and how those affirm the best of our values as individuals, as members of our various communities, and as scholars and researchers.

To be able to uphold these values and meet the changing times and challenges, as a program

we must be willing to change, too, especially as we approach our fifteenth anniversary. First, our name. We are now officially First Nations and Indigenous Studies (FNIS), to better reflect our diverse commitments: we are First Nations in recognition of our location and deep roots in local First Nations contexts and communities, but we are also more broadly Indigenous, in recognition of our links to Métis, Inuit, and international Indigenous knowledge and concerns. [See p. 3] This year we welcome Dr. Sarah Hunt (Kwagiulth) as Assistant Professor in FNIS and Geography, who brings the interconnected considerations of geography, land, sexuality, and gender to our



**WE WORK
TO IMPACT THE WORLD**
*in meaningful, generous, and responsible ways, and
as the world changes, we adapt to meet those needs
while staying true to our values, our relationships,
and our commitments.*



existing strengths in politics, law, literature, and Indigenous feminisms. [See p. 7-8] More courses, more students, more symposia, sponsorships, visiting scholars—FNIS is entering a new and exciting phase of its life.

With the First Nations and Endangered Languages Program (FNEL) we are also a partner unit in the new **Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies** (CIS). CIS brings our separate units into more direct relationship while retaining our distinct programmatic mandates. The Institute connects our collaborative strengths and makes possible a number of new initiatives, including graduate

programming, more extensive public outreach, and an internationally recognizable home for transformative and provocative work in the field. We are fiercely committed to maintaining our strong, student-centred undergraduate teaching and our partnerships with community, but we are also excited to expand the reach of our scholarship, teaching, and public engagement, and the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies gives us more capacity for these important interventions. [See p. 3]

Many things change, but one thing that remains steadfast is our dedication to the most intellectually and ethically robust scholarship and teaching, all oriented toward Indigenous peoples' resurgent strength, health, and capacity. We work to impact the world in meaningful, generous, and responsible ways, and as the world changes, we adapt to meet those needs while staying true to our values, our relationships, and our commitments.

Continuity through change, transformation through tenacity—please join us as we celebrate our growth and the important new work we can do together as the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program, part of the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies in UBC's Faculty of Arts. The good work of the past fifteen years is only just beginning!

Keep a fire,

A Colorado-born citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Daniel is Professor of FNIS and English. In 2015-16 he will be teaching FNIS400 Research Practicum.

INTRODUCING INSTITUTE *for* CRITICAL INDIGENOUS STUDIES

UNDER A NEW UMBRELLA FNISP CHANGES ITS NAME

by Maize Longboat

THIS PAST YEAR has brought exciting changes to Indigenous Studies at UBC. In February the First Nations Studies Program (FNISP) officially changed its name to the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program (FNIS) in order to reflect the broader field with which our students are engaging with in FNIS classrooms. Additionally, FNIS has solidified its academic partnership with the First Nations and Endangered Languages Program (FNEL), formerly the First Nations Languages Program, under the new Institute for **Critical Indigenous Studies (CIS)** in the Faculty of Arts. Under the new umbrella of CIS, FNIS looks forward to expanding the Program's capacity for cutting-edge research, ethical community engagement, and the highest standards of undergraduate and graduate education.

FNIS would like to send out our most sincere thanks to all who have made this next step forward a reality, including our community and academic partners, alumni, and current students. In particular, the support of our past and present students has inspired our Program to reach new heights in the field of Critical Indigenous Studies itself. They truly are the foundation of this Program and its vision, and we hold our hands up in admiration and gratitude. ■



The Institute for
Critical Indigenous Studies
Faculty of Arts, UBC

ABOUT OUR LOGO

FNIS WOULD LIKE to thank Dempsey Bob (Tahltan/Tlingit) for the design of our program logo. The image is of a raven and the sun, a reference to a story in many BC First Nations traditions in which the trickster-transformer and culture hero Raven steals the Sun from its covetous keeper and releases it, thereby bringing daylight and knowledge to the shadow-weary world.

If you are interested in Dempsey Bob's work, please refer to his website: dempseybob.com ■



**FIRST NATIONS
& INDIGENOUS STUDIES**
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

First Nations
& ENDANGERED
LANGUAGES
PROGRAM UBC



FNIS students and scholars contribute to and support Indigenous knowledge, research, and resurgence. Join us to support learning opportunities such as student research and practicum placements, travel abroad fellowships and Indigenous artist residencies that enhance our collective knowledge and work in the community.

To learn more about the FNIS program and how you can get involved, please contact:

Jennifer Peng

Senior Associate Director
Development and Alumni Engagement
jennifer.peng@ubc.ca
604 822 4790

One of the central FNIS commitments is extensive engagement with UBC and the broader public on Indigenous research, artistic expression, and politics in robust and sophisticated ways, both on our own and in collaboration with other units, community partners, and institutions. The following are just some of the many events we planned or co-sponsored in the 2014-2015 academic year. This is just a partial list—our students, faculty, post-doctoral associates, and sessional instructors led or participated in even more:

2014/2015 EVENTS

LOOKING BACK

by Maize Longboat

sept 18 /2014

Chief Roger William's talk (*Xeni Gwet'in*)
and a conversation on the Tsilhqot'in title case

sept 24 /2014

Red Skin, White Masks book talk at
Carnegie Community Centre

oct 20 /2014

Dr. Jim Miller's lecture, "BC Treaty-Making
in the 21st Century"

oct 22 /2014

Official launch event for
Red Skin, White Masks at SFU Woodward's

nov 17 /2014

Lunch event for transfer students in FNIS

nov 21 /2014

Tania Willard's workshop on
Indigenous Languages and Public Art

nov 24 /2014

FNSSA and InSA host their annual
Holiday Gala Fundraiser

nov 27 /2014

Eden Robinson's talk on the
"Sasquatch in Vancouver"

feb 3 /2015

UBC Longhouse Aboriginal Student Lunch
hosted by FNIS

mar 5 /2015

Michelle Aleksandrovic's talk,
"But You Don't Look Aboriginal"

mar 9 /2015

Michelle St. John's talk,
"Creating to Shift the Paradigm: Transitioning
from Actor to Artist"

mar 10 /2015

"Standing Territories" with Natasha Fontaine
and Louis-Karl Picard-Sioui

mar 13 /2015

Kevin Bruyneel's talk, "Project Geronimo:
Settler Memory and the Production of
American Statism"

mar 18 /2015

Marilyn Dumont's reading for her book
The Pemmican Eaters

mar 24/25 /2015

FNIS 400
Research Practicum Presentations

apr 16 /2015

"Dialogues in Critical Indigenous Studies"

apr 17 /2015

Graduate Student Workshop

apr 27 /2015

FNIS graduation celebration dinner at
Salmon n' Bannock

may 19 /2015

Métis in Space Live Recording at the
UBC Longhouse

jun 1 /2015

FNIS Alumni Mixer at Nuba on Broadway

jun 4/5/6 /2015

FNIS faculty, affiliates, and alumni present at
NAISA international conference in
Washington, DC



On June 1st, FNIS held its annual Alumni Mixer at Nuba on Broadway. The Mixer connected alumni of several different graduating classes with each other and with current students. This networking event was just one of several successful initiatives sponsored by the Program in 2014-2015. Photos: Edward Chang

RESEARCH ON THE CUTTING EDGE

FACULTY UPDATE

by Maize Longboat



FNIS Faculty members—W2014. (From left to right: Dr. Daniel Justice, Dr. Glen Coulthard, Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot, Dr. Dory Nason, Dr. Johnny Mack, and Dr. Linc Kesler).

OUR FNIS FACULTY members and instructors have been hard at work this year researching, writing, editing, teaching, and engaging with broader communities. Dr. Glen Coulthard's new book, *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition* (University of Minnesota Press) has been a stellar success since its release in August 2014. [See p. 6]

In addition to teaching the 400-level Research Practicum this year, Program Chair Dr. Daniel Justice saw his much anticipated book, *Badger*, published in February 2015 to positive reviews, with *BBC Wildlife Magazine* describing the book as "one of the best" in the celebrated Animal series from Reaktion Books. Dr. Justice is currently finishing the manuscript for his forthcoming literary manifesto, *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press).

Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot published "Settler State Apologies to Indigenous Peoples: A Normative Framework and Comparative Assessment" in the Spring 2015 issue of *Native American and Indigenous Studies*, the flagship journal of the international Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. This article examines the apology practices of four settler-colonial states (Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand) to assess meaningfulness. Additionally, Dr. Lightfoot is working on a book for the *Worlding Beyond the West* critical international relations series by Routledge Press, entitled *Indigenous Global Politics: A Subtle Revolution*.

This year Dr. Dory Nason has been delivering presentations on her scholarship rooted in Indigenous feminisms and co-editing a book on the

writings of Pauline Johnson. In March, Dr. Nason presented "Indigenous Feminist Filmmaking and the Ethics of Collaboration: The Embargo II Collective" at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) to much acclaim. *Tekahionwake: E. Pauline Johnson's Writings on Native North America*, co-edited with Dr. Margery Fee, is set for release in October 2015.

Dr. Johnny Mack joined FNIS at the beginning of W2014 and enjoys a joint appointment between the Program and UBC's Faculty of Law. Dr. Mack taught his inaugural course, FNIS 401G: *Indigenous Law in the Settler State*, alongside FNIS Sessional Instructor Matthew Wildcat, and will teach the course again in W2015. Among other initiatives, Dr. Mack is continuing his work on the Franz Boas Papers Project out of the University of Western Ontario and helped start the Indigenous Advisory Council on which he and Dr. Nason serve.

Dr. Linc Kesler, former FNIS Chair, has been reappointed for another five-year term as Senior Advisor to the President and as Director of the First Nations House of Learning. Congratulations, Dr. Kesler—your dedication to Indigenous peoples and concerns at UBC is greatly appreciated!

Post-doctoral scholars associated with the Program taught several FNIS courses during the 2014-2015 Winter Session. These scholars included Dr. Sarah Henzi, who taught FNIS 401K: *Popular Culture and Alternative Genres*, and Dr. David Gaertner, who taught FNIS 401F: *Indigenous New Media*. [See p. 9] ■

BOOK LAUNCH

RED SKIN, WHITE MASKS

DR. GLEN COULTHARD

by Maize Longboat

UPON ITS RELEASE in October 2014, FNIS co-sponsored the public debut for Dr. Glen Coulthard's book, *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. The event took place in downtown Vancouver at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts to a full house of supporters that overflowed into standing room areas. Once Dr. Coulthard thanked his supporters and provided a summary of his book's main objectives, Program Chair Dr. Daniel Justice moderated an enlightening panel discussion of Coulthard's book that featured the thoughts and critical reflections of scholars Rita Kaur Dhamoon, Sarah Hunt (Kwagiulth), Matt Hern, and Jarrett Martineau (Cree/Dene).

Since its release, *Red Skin, White Masks* has met with critical acclaim and has already gone into a second print run! Jacobin Magazine also conducted a featured interview with Dr. Coulthard in January 2015. Be on the lookout for future work from this provocative political theorist! ■



(Top) An eager audience looks on as Dr. Matt Hern delivers his review of *Red Skin, White Masks*. (Bottom Left) Book front cover.



How might INDIGENOUS transform settl power relatio

FNIS NEW HIRE GREETINGS

DR SARAH HUNT

TŁA LI ŁI LA'OGWA

WHEN I STARTED my undergrad at UVic in 1994, I was usually the only Native student in my classes, and had difficulty finding courses that took up the critical discussions of colonialism, Indigeneity, gender, and justice that I so craved. I was relieved to eventually find about fifty Indigenous students with whom I could commiserate about these challenges—building that community with other students was key to my academic success, especially as we had only a couple of Indigenous faculty at the university. Now the numbers of Indigenous students, staff, and faculty have grown to a critical mass on campuses all across Turtle Island—something that is truly remarkable, given that the last residential school in Canada closed only two years after my undergraduate education began. Efforts to decolonize educational spaces are not over, of course, but it's heartening that more and more Indigenous students are able to find programs that reflect their realities. Most importantly, over the past twenty years, the terms in which Indigenous knowledge is formed has changed significantly, as decolonial methodologies and ancient land-based pedagogies are being used by critical scholars in a range of fields. Our ancestors would be proud.

So it is truly an honor to be joining the UBC community this fall as Assistant Professor in First Nations and Indigenous Studies within the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies. It is because of many years of challenging and creative work invested by faculty, staff, students and community members that Indigenous students now see themselves reflected in the course material and research in these and other departments. I look forward to bringing my voice as an Indigenous geographer and long-time community educator and researcher to these ongoing collaborative efforts.

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FEMINISMS er colonial ns?

As a critical geographer investigating questions of law and Indigeneity, I am interested in asking how we come to understand the spaces we are in, and how people and communities come to define themselves through their spatial relations. Responding to the question “where are we?” can make visible some key tensions in contemporary colonial relations: beneath the dominant understandings of where we are situated (UBC, Vancouver, BC, Canada) lie the longstanding jurisdiction and active place-based teachings of the Musqueam people. Understanding what it means to be a good guest on unceded Musqueam lands is an ongoing responsibility I have as a Kwagiulth visitor in these territories. It is within these longstanding place-based principles of Indigenous socio-legal relations that I approach my role as an educator, researcher, and writer. Of course, these responsibilities must be carried out relationally and I value the knowledge passed on to me by the youth, community members, students, staff, and faculty I have the honor of working with. So I welcome you to drop by my office, introduce yourself, and chat with me about your own interests when classes begin. ■

Sarah received her PhD from Simon Fraser University. Her scholarship in Indigenous and legal geographies critically takes up questions of violence, justice, self-determination, and resurgence. Her writing and research emerge within the networks of community relations that have fostered her analysis as a community-based researcher, with a particular focus on issues facing women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. Sarah holds a joint appointment in FNIS and Geography, and will be teaching FNIS 320 *Methods Seminar*, FNIS 451 *Indigenous Feminisms*, and *Feminist Geographies*, GEOG 424, in the coming 2015 Winter Term.

FNIS
451 101

| *How might Indigenous Feminisms transform settler colonial power relations? Take FNIS 541 101*



How can NEW & DIGITAL S support Indig

INDIGENEITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

DR. DAVID GAERTNER

FNIS 401F, INDIGENOUS NEW MEDIA

MY NAME IS David Gaertner and I teach and research Indigenous New Media here in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program. I was born in Surrey, British Columbia, to second-generation German-settler parents, and I completed an undergraduate degree in English at UBC in 2003. After graduating I worked as a freelance writer, editor, and interviewer for *Ricepaper*, *Ripe Magazine*, *Broken Pencil*, and CBC Radio 3, but quickly realized what I probably knew all along: that research is what I really wanted to do. So, in 2005 I decided to go back to school for a Master's of English, which I completed at the University of Manitoba. In 2007 my partner and I packed up a U-Haul and moved back to the West Coast, and I began a PhD at Simon Fraser University. My dissertation, which I defended in the summer of 2012, was on discourses of reconciliation in Indigenous and Canadian literatures.

So why New Media? At FNIS I've endeavored to bring my love of stories and storytelling to the digital, not because I think podplays and websites are going to render books obsolete, or because digital media is the latest fad, but because storytellers using digital platforms need to be taken seriously. Crucially, this is an intensely exciting time to be involved in the intersection between New Media studies, storytelling and Critical Indigenous Studies. Digital storytellers like Quelema Sparrow, Cheryl L'Hirondelle, Kevin Lee Burton, and Skawennati, just to name a few, are pushing the boundaries of a medium long considered to be a "landless territory," connecting audiences to history and place while generating vibrant, engaging publics that rigorously contend with the central issues of Critical Indigenous Studies. They also tell beautiful stories.

My primary goal with FNIS, therefore, is to build on the many strengths of the Program in order to create the first sustainable Indigenous new media and digital storytelling centre in Canada developed with a collaborative community, academic, and campus media presence/shaped and driven collaboratively by community, academic and student involvement. Indigenous storytellers are redefining the borders between land, technology, and storytelling and generating new waves of enthusiasm around Indigenous arts and politics. Imagine a digital walking tour that augments Coast

“

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NEW MEDIA STORYTELLING Indigenous knowledges?

Salish territory with Skwxwú7mesh stories and songs, or a round dance held in an online digital gallery. Imagine searching a digital archive that structures your points of access through specific community protocols, or an app that shares the Indigenous histories of a university campus as you walk through it. These are all projects that are happening right now in Indigenous New Media and FNIS is poised to become a vibrant hub for the study and production of new work in the field. I am thrilled to help guide that work.

In my two years here so far, and along with critical support from the community and Program, I have been privileged to play a lead role in the development of FNIS into a unique site for the study and implementation of Indigenous New Media. In 2014, we launched UBC's first Indigenous New Media courses (FNIS 401F), which was quickly filled with talented graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines, including FNIS, Education, and Art History. I designed and taught the course with the help of a number of amazing guest speakers, including Ronnie Dean Harris, Skawennati, Mark Turin, and Quelemia Sparrow. Over the course of the term students learned how read, contextualize, and analyze a variety of digital mediums including podplays, interactive websites, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and machinima, conducting original, in-class research and participating in unique digital events—including an exclusive tour of Skawennati's Indigenous online art gallery Musée du Futur.

After familiarizing themselves with the history and innovations of the field of Indigenous New Media, participants then receive practical training in web design and sound editing, which they use to design and disseminate their own New Media projects, producing podcasts, blogs, and interactive digital stories. Students leave 401F with the skills, confidence, and resources to build New Media and digital storytelling projects for the Program and the community—for instance, FNIS graduate Alex Bouchard used the skills and tools from 401F to build a website for Urban Ink that analyzed and described Inuit narratives of Sedna, the powerful sea being of Inuit traditions. Alex's contribution brought together New Media with the

analytic and methodological skills she developed in FNIS to give academic research back to the community.

CiTR, UBC's student and community radio station, has been an invaluable partner in FNIS's media initiatives. Given the experiences and skills I developed with community radio as both an undergraduate and graduate student, and the increasing interest in and relevance of Indigenous new media at UBC, including through 401F, I was excited to be able to facilitate new connections between FNIS and CiTR. The station has made an invaluable contribution to the Program's development in media initiatives, providing students, faculty, and community members with the training, technology and space to share their knowledges and stories. For example, for her FNIS practicum project for CiTR, Salia Joseph produced a four-part podcast series entitled Mingling with Matriarchs, exploring storytelling and Indigenous New Media via interviews with Indigenous women.

I am exceptionally honoured and excited for the opportunity to work with FNIS and the Indigenous students, academics, and community members who want to develop and share their stories with new technologies and digital platforms. We have a host of exciting new projects, lectures, and workshops lined up for the coming year, including new podcasts, digital storytelling workshops, and an augmented reality tour of Indigenous UBC (Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet). I will also be publishing new work on Indigenous New Media with Wilfrid Laurier University Press in the fall and, with my co-editors, putting the finishing touches on a new teaching anthology of Indigenous short fiction, which we hope to have published in the spring. I hope you'll join us in making 2015-2016 a virtually transformative year for FNIS and Indigenous New Media! ■

FNIS
401F 101

Or if you have questions or would like to talk more about the New Media projects at FNIS, feel free to stop by my office (BUCH E273), or send me an email david.gaertner@ubc.ca

More and more,
students are hearing
acknowledgments of
Musqueam territory
and our tour goes a
step further and gets
student thinking about
what it means to be on
the ancestral, unceded
territory of the
Musqueam People.



Spencer shares the deeper history of UBC's Rose Garden with a group on the "Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet" walking tour.
Photo: Spencer Lindsay



KNOWING THE LAND BENEATH OUR FEET

INDIGENOUS RELATIONSHIPS OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS

ALUMNI SHARE STORIES OF UBC

by Sarah Ling and Spencer Lindsay

DURING THE SECOND term of the 2014-2015 academic year, FNIS alumni Sarah Ling and Spencer Lindsay rolled out the pilot phase of their Indigenous walking tour initiative, Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet (KLBF). What began as a simple request from one instructor has now grown into a multimedia project in collaboration with Musqueam, FNIS, the Coordinated Arts Program (CAP), and the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT). FNIS Chair Daniel Justice, Postdoctoral Fellow and Indigenous New Media (FNIS 401F) instructor David Gaertner, and FNIS alumna and current Strategist for Aboriginal Initiatives at CTLT Amy Perreault are also part of the KLBF team.

Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet is a walking tour of UBC's Point Grey campus that shares stories about Indigenous names, artwork, and architecture that denote important relationships between campus unity and First Nations communities. The purpose of the tour is to share with students, faculty, staff, and visitors about their responsibility to uphold these relationships as occupants of Musqueam land, building on the terms of the Memorandum of Affiliation between Musqueam and UBC.

"More and more, students are hearing acknowledgments of Musqueam territory," said Spencer Lindsay, an alumnus of FNIS and a recent graduate of the Indigenous Community Planning Program at UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning. "And our tour goes a step further and gets students thinking about what it means to be on the ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam People."

The tour grew from one request by an instructor in the Coordinated Arts Program, Dr. Kathryn Grafton, who heard about Ling's and Lindsay's previous work facilitating the naming of two buildings on campus at Totem Park Residence using two Musqueam place names, *həmləsəṁ* and *qələxən*. She wanted a way for her students to connect and apply what they were learning from Indigenous literature to contemporary issues that take place at and surrounding UBC. In other words, she wanted her students to feel more connected to the place where they study and to understand the colonial past and present of this territory.

Over the next couple years the tour requests grew, and in 2014 Ling and Lindsay teamed up with FNIS, CTLT, and CAP to expand the initiative with support from the UBC Equity Enhancement Fund. They are now looking to turn the tour into a digitally augmented experience in collaboration with the Musqueam community that can be adapted for use in many different classrooms and other educational contexts. The KLBF team is working with UBC Digital Media Technologies to create a digital web application, and they are also creating also a teaching guide aimed at encouraging other instructors to integrate the KLBF tour into their lessons plans.

"I think there's a growing number of instructors who are wanting to address colonialism, reconciliation, and other Indigenous topics in their classroom but feel like they don't have enough expertise to approach it in a good way. We're hoping KLBF will be a resource these instructors can lean on and take up the responsibility of teaching the next generation of students about their responsibilities as guests in Musqueam territory," said Lindsay.

Reflecting on the ongoing support they have received from instructors, mentors, and friends on campus since they began developing Indigenous initiatives in 2010, Ling, who is completing her MA on UBC-Indigenous relations and the history of Chinese market gardening in the Musqueam community through the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program, expressed her sincere gratitude to FNIS and the Musqueam community in particular: "The FNIS and Musqueam communities have been integral to our growth as individuals and it's amazing to work with wonderful colleagues who are committed to changing the contested and colonial spaces we live within."

With additional resources recently made available through the UBC Centennial Fund, the team is looking to add some audiovisual materials to further enhance the digital experience. Look for their launch event happening this coming year alongside a set of other exciting Indigenous Centennial projects. ■

#KNOWTHELAND

ALUMNI PROFILE

BANCHI HANUSE

GRADUATION DATE

MAY 2004

HOME

BELLA COOLA, BC

CAREER

INDIGENOUS MEDIA PRODUCER



My name is Slts'łani—Banchi Hanuse from the Nuxalk Nation.

I WAS WORKING in Toronto as an assistant editor on Director Clint Morrill Tourangeau's (Dene) NFB documentary *Deep Inside Clint Star* when he lent me his book *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown, and told me I needed to read it. I realized that I was incredibly ignorant regarding Indigenous issues; Clint and the book were the catalyst for me to enter into post secondary and pursue a degree in First Nations Studies. Even though I was born and raised on Nuxalk (Bella Coola) territory, the FNIS (FNISP) program helped me better understand Nuxalk history and our current state.

I joined the FNIS program at its inception and did a minor in International Relations as well. My practicum was with Kamala Todd on her *Our City, Our Voices* digital storytelling project, a joint initiative between the City of Vancouver and the National Film Board of Canada. Part of Kamala's project was about educating Vancouverites on where they reside—the lands belonging to the

Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh.

Since completing the FNIS (FNISP) program, I co-created and associate produced the Our World Indigenous language project at the National Film Board of Canada. Following that I directed a short documentary *Cry Rock*, about the function of the

Nuxalk oral tradition. I also co-founded and managed the first year of Nuxalk Radio 91.1 FM, which launched si7mt (summer solstice/ June 21st) 2014 with the slogan "Lhulhamktulhs ala ts'ktaliwalh alh ti s-kulhulmcilh t'ayc n wa sulutilh ats," roughly

translated as "Broadcasting the laws of the lands and waters."

Currently, I am in postproduction with UBC Studios on a short dramatic film inspired by a true story. Further, I am working on a documentary about the Nuxalk and Dzawada'enuxw (Kingcome) peoples and our relationship with the eulachon.

A lot of the work that I do reflects the knowledge gained in FNIS. The best thing about the

Program was that it allowed me understand why my community is struggling. Just knowing why helped free me in a way. ■

BANCHI'S PROJECTS:

Cry Rock had its premiere at National Geographic's All Roads Film Festival. It screened at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and various film festivals. *Cry Rock* was awarded a Golden Sheaf Award for Best Documentary Short, the NFB's Kathleen Shannon Award at Yorkton Film Festival, and the Audience Choice Award at Dawson City International Short Film Festival, among others. Learn more at smayaykila.com

Clyde Tallio, Spencer Siwallace (UBC BSF '01), Megan Moody (UBC MSc '08), and Banchi Hanuse—got together during Idle No More Indigenous resistance movement to discuss what the movement means to Nuxalkmc (Nuxalk people). During that discussion, they put forward the idea of starting Nuxalk Radio as a way of educating and assisting their community in the process of revitalization and resurgence as well as to help keep the Nuxalk language alive, as there are only about a dozen Nuxalk language speakers remaining. Learn more at nuxalkradio.com



CONGRATULATIONS FNIS GRADUATES!

by Maize Longboat

OUR FNIS MAJOR/MINOR graduates crossed the Chan Centre stage to receive their degrees on May 20th while several Program faculty acknowledged their accomplishments with traditional drums and rattle. The ceremony seemed to be a blur for its participants, but when the dust settled, our FNIS students had been transformed into FNIS alumni.

Affirming FNIS tradition, the Program hosted a dinner at Salmon n' Bannock Bistro to celebrate our 2015 graduating class separately from the formal graduation ceremony. Students, staff, faculty, and friends who attended were treated to unique West Coast cuisine such as fried oolichan, herring roe on seaweed, and seasoned salmon, while fond memories and thanks were exchanged. FNIS presented this year's graduating students with their Program completion certificates and FNIS swag as a formal gesture of thanks for all of their hard work, passion, and commitment to the Program. The Program wishes you the best of luck in the future, and we hope to hear soon about all your post-graduate adventures and successes! ■

THIS PAST OCTOBER FNIS said goodbye to one of our most respected staff members, Jie le Baik, who is now a full-time staff member at the First Nations House of Learning. Jie le was a vital part of our administrative team for the past five years and a generous, enthusiastic, and incredibly hard-working contributor to FNIS. Her unceasing commitment and attention to details large and small have improved the Program by enriching the experiences of students, community members, staff, and faculty who she has interacted with on all levels. Many thanks for all you have done for the Program, Jie le, and good luck on your future adventures!

With Jie le's departure, FNIS has since welcomed Candice Yu, our Senior Program Assistant, onto our administrative team. Candice graduated from the University of Alberta with a BEd in Secondary Education and majored in Biological Sciences with a minor in Japanese. She is also a fluent Mandarin speaker, and enjoys food, music, and connecting with people. Her warm personality brightens our days and her vigorous and attentive work drives our Program to further success. We are so privileged to have had Candice's world-class support this year and FNIS looks forward to many more to come! ■

FAREWELL JIE IE, WELCOME CANDICE!

by Maize Longboat



2014

FNSSA PRESIDENT STATEMENT MATTHEW WARD

Ward is a member of Driftpile Cree Nation in Alberta and a recent graduate of FNIS. He enjoys critical writing, sunny days, and pizza.



WHILE THERE ARE many to people thank for this past year's amazing accomplishments, I would like to start by thanking the Musqueam Nation for hosting many FNSSA events and myself on their traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory. Without their generosity much of the work FNSSA does at UBC and in Vancouver would not be possible. I would like to thank the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies for their continued support of our group's organized initiatives, and for giving us the ability to host fantastic events in impactful, respectful, and accountable ways. I would also like to thank all the FNSSA executive team and volunteers. These achievements would not have been possible by myself alone, but were the direct results of your dedication to your community efforts. As I move on to graduation and a new chapter of my life, you will continue to inspire me to remain committed to the work we do. I leave this campus and this organization with a full heart, many friends, and a renewed sense of responsibility to continue this work in new ways and in new places. A special shout-out to the strong, intelligent, and beautiful Indigenous who helped lift me up, take care of me, and taught me a lesson when I needed it. I look forward to seeing all the amazing projects that FNSSA will complete next year, and in the future. This is only the beginning! ■



2015

FNSSA PRESIDENT STATEMENT SALIA JOSEPH

Salia Joseph is a fifth-year FNIS Major and the newest President of FNSSA. She is from the Skwxkwú7mesh and Snuneymuxw nations and grew up in the Saanich peoples' territory in Brentwood Bay on Vancouver Island. Salia was well travelled before moving back to her home territory to study at UBC.

HELLO ALL! My name is Salia Joseph, I'm from the Skwxkwú7mesh and Snuneymuxw nations, with Jewish and English ancestry on my mother's side. I hold my hands up to our Musqueam hosts, on whose beautiful and powerful territory we do our work. I am approaching my fourth year on the executive of FNSSA and am honored to take on the role of president. I'm happy to follow in the big jazzy footsteps of Matthew Ward, who did an astonishing job keeping us organized, excited, and laughing. FNSSA holds a strong place in my heart, as it has shaped my experience at UBC and the work that I want to do as I move forward. We've got an all-star team of driven, talented (and good-looking!) people this year that will continue the great work that FNSSA has done while creating new opportunities and growth! Look out for the new undergraduate journal, our pow-wow fundraisers, the second annual pow-wow, and the inevitable pizza party's at DD's restaurant! I am excited for the upcoming year and getting to work with such a lovely team of people and an incredibly supportive faculty. ■





(Left) A group of FNSSA and InSA volunteers at UBC's first-ever Pow-wow celebration. Photo: Matthew Ward (Right) Hundreds of Pow-wow guests, vendors, and competitors look on as a dance special takes place. Photo: Salia Joseph



FNSSA & InSA HOST

NEHIYO-PASKWA-ITSIMOWIN

UBC'S FIRST ANNUAL POW-WOW

by Maize Longboat

AFTER TWO FULL years of planning and fundraising, the First Nations Studies Student Association (FNSSA) and the Indigenous Students Association (InSA) were proud to bring the Nehiyo-paskwa-itsimowin Pow-wow Celebration to the community on April 4th. UBC's War Memorial Gym was filled with soulful drumbeats as several hundred dancers from as far away as San Francisco and Alberta competed in a variety of competition specials. Artisan vendors lined the floor and a hot meal was served to all who attended. The day-long event was a great success and both FNSSA and InSA are looking forward to continuing this tradition next year with the intention of growing in scope. Watch for news of more FNSSA and InSA fundraising events for 2015-2016! ■

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

by Matthew Ward

FNSSA HELD NUMEROUS events throughout the 2014-2015 Winter semester to raise funds for multiple initiatives on campus. In the fall, a coffeehouse, salmon feast, and silent auction event was held to raise money for UBC's first pow-wow, in collaboration with the Indigenous Students Association (InSA). This night's activities helped make the journal and the Pow-wow ventures possible, and we thank all who attended!

Another collaboration occurred in February 2015, when FNSSA and the Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA) partnered on a bannock bake sale to help raise funds for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre in support of the March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Vancouver.

The last major fundraising event occurred at our first pow-wow. Thanks to the generous support of the Indigenous community, UBC academic and support units, faculty, staff, and students, and the organizers, enough money was raised to ensure that events like the pow-wow will continue to have a presence on campus for future generations. ■

UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

K^wΘƏ SXƏXI:Í SS K^wΘƏ
X^wƏNA?ƏLMƏX^w

by Matthew Ward

THE FIRST NATIONS STUDIES Student Association successfully published the first issue of k^wΘƏ SXƏXI:Í ss k^wΘƏ x^wƏNA?ƏLMƏX^w—*The First Peoples Writing Undergraduate Journal* in December 2014 with its name gifted to FNSSA by the Musqueam Nation. The journal offers insightful academic writing from Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from multiple academic units across UBC. The journal hopes to inspire further dialogue among students about Indigenous issues on campus and beyond.

The journal is currently editing the second edition, which will be available in late 2015. If you are interested in participating in this initiative or would like to purchase a copy of the first edition, please email the Editor at isuj.ubc@gmail.com. All proceeds are put back into the project to ensure its continuity for years to come. ■

CREATIVITY & CRITICAL THOUGHT

ODEMINAN—OOKISHKIMAANISII

STUDENT EXPRESSION BY SOPHIE JOHNSTON

We Anishinaabe say that strawberries were the first fruit, the heart of our mother, the sweetness of life, the love she has for us. We call them heart-berries. Strawberries are born with all the seeds they'll ever need. When I came of age Nokomis said now your body is blooming like strawberries and pressed a strawberry against my forehead.

Strawberries have eight sets of chromosomes. We humans only have two, one from each parent. When I was seventeen my biology class performed a chromosome extraction from strawberries. They surrendered their secrets so easily, perfect in a glass vial. Humans only have two sets of chromosomes but if you stretch them out the length of all the chromosomes in your body is two times ten to the power of thirteen meters.

I've never seen my own chromosomes or my own strawberries or all the seeds that I was born with and will ever need but the collective length of them is so much greater than this little pink body.

How many secrets need two times ten to the power of thirteen meters of space?

When we went back east and visited the grave of Nigashi's favorite auntie I saw the brightest fattest strawberries, nestled in the grass with little white blossoms. Nigashi says when we cross over, the strawberries are waiting for us.

Two times ten to the power of thirteen meters is the equivalent of nearly seventy trips to the sun and back.

A year after I came of age Nokomis said now you are a new woman and fed me strawberries from her hand. ■



ARTIST STATEMENT

Ookishkimaanisii ndizhnikaas, waabizheyshii ndodem, Neyaashiinigmiing ndonjibaa. My Anishinaabe name is Ookishkimaanisii, I am Marten Clan, and I come from the Point of Land Surrounded by Water, also known as the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation. I'm a fourth year student double majoring in First Nations and Indigenous Studies and Creative Writing. As a writer, I have so much to draw on, including my community, my spirituality, and my identity as an Anishinaabe-kwe. What I'm learning in FNIS enriches and complements these ways of knowing. FNIS has taught me that I can look to these Anishinaabe experiences and teachings to enact resurgence and practice decolonization. This poem is about a cultural celebration of womanhood, which is something that colonialism has taught us to revile, belittle, and hate.



SESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT

MATTHEW WILDCAT

PHD CANDIDATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Matt Wildcat hails from the Ermineskin Cree Nation in Maskwacis, Alberta. As a sessional instructor, Matthew will be teaching FNIS 310: *Theory Seminar* in Term 1 of the 2015-2016 Winter Session

MY NAME IS Matthew Wildcat. I'm Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) and grew up in Maskwacis, AB. Maskwacis consists of four Plains Cree First Nations, and Matthew is a member of Ermineskin Cree Nation. I'm currently a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of British Columbia. I'm very closely associated with FNIS through working in the grad student/post-doc office and working as a sessional instructor. The ability to work in this space with other exciting young scholars and alongside FNIS faculty has greatly enhanced my experience at UBC and growth as a scholar.

I came to UBC initially to work with Dene political theorist Glen Coulthard. This decision was also made easier by the presence of FNIS professor Sheryl Lightfoot in the Department of Political Science and the excellent reputation UBC had for research on Indigenous issues.

My first experience with FNIS started by conducting a research project on FNIS 400, the Program's Research Practicum. My findings led me to conclude that the Research Practicum is one of the most innovative and effective courses offered at the undergraduate level in any discipline at UBC. I have had more interactions with FNIS 400 students through sitting on the ethics committee in 2012, and I am thoroughly impressed with the work conducted within the Practicum.

I've also been able to work with FNIS faculty through research I conducted for a SSHRC grant on Dechinta Bush University. In this project I examined how student mobility and transfer credit could be established between FNIS and Dechinta University, at that time in collaboration with University of Alberta. As FNIS works to establishing closer ties with Dechinta through UBC credits for coursework I look forward to playing my small role in helping provide FNIS students with access to land-based education, and working towards providing more opportunities for students in the NWT

to access post-secondary education.

Conducting this research on Dechinta with Glen Coulthard also lead to co-editing a volume on land-based education for the journal *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education, and Society*. After this issue was published I was invited to join the editorial team of *Decolonization* as assistant editor.

My education as UBC would be entirely different if not for my association with FNIS and I greatly value my ability to work in close quarters with FNIS faculty, staff, and associated graduate stu-

dents. I look forward to concluding my final years of my PhD by contributing to the FNIS community and all the scholarly and personal benefits that come with from being part of such an excellent community of educators. ■

“
The ability to work in this space
with other exciting young scholars
and beside FNIS faculty has greatly
enhanced my experience at UBC and
growth as a scholar.
”



PRACTICUM PROGRAM

BUTTON BLANKETS, PODCASTS, AND ARCHIVAL REVIVAL

DECOLONIZING RESEARCH

METHODOLOGIES & ENGAGEMENT

by Maize Longboat



(Top) Participants in a focus group from the Aboriginal Mother Centre Society made this button blanket with the assistance of their Practicum student researcher, Danette Jubinville. Students and instructors of the FNIS Research Practicum team. (Bottom) From left to right: Dr. Daniel Justice (Practicum instructor), Molly Ance, Sophie Bender Johnston, Anna McKenzie, Salia Joseph, Matthew Ward, Alex Bouchard, Danette Jubinville, Courtney Smith, and Tanya Bob (Practicum Coordinator).

THIS YEAR, EIGHT FNIS students took part in the fourth-year Research Practicum and were given the opportunity to put academic theory into practice through partnership with organizations and initiatives committed to Indigenous communities. Our students worked to negotiate, design, and implement research projects that would address each organization's individual needs. At the end of the academic year, Practicum participants presented their projects at Musqueam and at UBC, where the core foundation of the Research Practicum is realized through our students' commitment to making a meaningful and lasting contribution.

This year's Research Practicum Partner organizations and communities included Urban Ink Productions, the Grunt Gallery, the McCreary Centre Society, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT), CiTR Radio, the Aboriginal Mother Centre Society, and the YWCA Strive Program. The Program would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our community partners, as your support has truly made a positive impact on student growth and development. ■

“

Our students worked with organizations to negotiate, design, an implement research projects that would address each organization's individual needs.

”

VOICE & PERFORMANCE
AN AFTERNOON WITH

MÉTIS *in* SPACE

By Salia Joseph

“

It is a series fit for both Native and non-Native people, from the most to least versed in these issues.

”

AN INCREASINGLY HIGH number of your average pedestrians caught laughing to themselves in public have the witty, decolonizing voices of the podcast Métis in Space in their ears. The women behind the curtain are Métis activists Molly Swain and Chelsea Vowel. The show's success is due to the captivating energy of the hosts, who both share a deep affinity for science fiction, fine wine, and decolonizing frameworks and dialogue. otipêyimisiw-iskwêwak kihci-kîsikohk, Métis in Space deconstructs and critiques science fiction containing Indigenous content. They do so in a comical, compelling, and educational way. It is a series fit for both Native and non-Native people, from the most to least versed in these issues. Everyone has something to learn from and laugh about in this podcast series.

VOICE & PERFORMANCE

MICHELLE ST. JOHN

FNIS ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



ACTOR, VOCALIST, WRITER, director, and producer Michelle St. John was welcomed as the official FNIS Artist-in-Residence for the month of February. Michelle is a two-time Gemini Award winning Indigenous actor with more than thirty years of experience in film, television, theatre, voice and music. Some of her film credits include CBC's *Where the Spirit Lives*, Miramax's *Smoke Signals*, and Sherman Alexie's *The Business of Fancydancing*. During her residency she worked on her own documentary production, *Colonization Road*, which is set to be released 2015/2016.

As the FNIS Artist-in-Residence, Michelle met with students, faculty, and other members of the UBC community to discuss Indigenous arts, media, and expression. She also delivered a public talk about her own work and life as an Indigenous artist, titled *Creating to Shift the Paradigm: Transitioning from Actor to Artist*. The Program greatly appreciates her expertise and contributions to fostering artistic dialogue within our community. ■

This past year in the FNIS program the students were buzzing in David Gaertner's Indigenous New Media class. David had us thinking about cyberspace, social media, and the various new media platforms that Indigenous people can utilize in meaningful ways—thus our interest in bringing Métis in Space to campus. It was this class (and my FNIS research practicum with UBC's radio station, CiTR) that sparked my own interest in Indigenous radio and podcasting.

This May we were fortunate and grateful to have Chelsea and Molly come to Musqueam's beautiful territory for a live episode of their series at the First Nations Longhouse, which was recorded by CiTR staff. It was an open event that yielded a diverse and enthusiastic crowd. Our podcast hosts had us watch an episode of the *Star Trek*

Voyager series called "Tattoo." After watching as a group we witnessed them recap and critique the episode. Their witty back-and-forth banter had viewers in awe and stitches. Following the episode, English MA student Lindsey Cornum (Navajo) and I hosted a question and answer panel where we talked about the representation of Indigeneity in the episode, the genre itself, and the medium of podcasting as an accessible tool for resistance. The episode was recorded and is now available for download on their website! (indianandcowboy.com/metis-in-space-podcast) It was a highlight of my year and I really encourage you all to heck out their series, as well as the other podcasts available on *Indian and Cowboy*. ■

Métis in Space artwork from indianandcowboy.com



STUDENT PROFILE

DANETTE JUBINVILLE

FNIS MAJOR



GRADUATION DATE

MAY 2015

HOME

VANCOUVER, BC

FAVOURITE FNIS COURSE

INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS

FNIS 451

MY NAME IS Danette Jubinville, and on my father's side I am Cree and Anishinaabe from the Pasqua First Nation, as well as French. On my mother's side, I am German, Jewish, Scottish, and English. I have had the honour and privilege of being born and raised on Coast Salish territory. UBC's First Nations and Indigenous Studies program is part of what drew me to choosing this institution over others in the local area. Originally, I declared a major in International Relations, with a minor in FNIS. However, by third year, I realized that FNIS was where I felt the most satisfied and inspired, so I switched my major.

During my time in this program, I took advantage of a number of meaningful opportunities, both on- and off-campus. In 2012, I helped to organize the student-led Global Indigenous Conference,



Our staff, faculty, and students are top notch; I honestly don't think I would have succeeded at UBC if I had not found this program.



which focused on environmental sustainability and Indigenous self-determination. I took my third year off to participate in the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program in Victoria, where I worked with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. After returning to Vancouver, I became more closely involved with the Indigenous Research and Education Garden at the UBC Farm through an internship/directed study. During

this past year, my work/study position at the First Nations House of Learning allowed me to get connected with some wonderful Indigenous youth through the Musqueam Youth Program and the Urban Native Youth Association. Those are just some highlights, not an exhaustive list of all the amazing things I did while an FNIS major—it has been a whirlwind of learning and growing!

In my final year of FNIS, I did my fourth-year Practicum placement with the Aboriginal Mother Centre Society. Through this Practicum project, I got to develop, deliver, and evaluate a button-blanket making program, to examine the relationship between creative arts and wellness in Indigenous communities. Now that I am finished my degree, I plan to keep working with Reciprocal Consulting, an all-Indigenous research team based in Vancouver. In the future, I plan to continue my studies in Indigenous women's health—midwifery is one possibility that I am pretty excited about.

I am extremely grateful to the FNIS program for their support and guidance over the last four years. Our staff, faculty, and students are top notch; I honestly don't think I would have succeeded at UBC if I had not found this program. The learning and healing journey that I began while in this program will continue through the rest of my life. Chi-miigwech for having me! ■

STUDENT PROFILE

VICTORIA COOKE

FNIS MAJOR

HI EVERYONE, my name is Victoria Cooke and I am a non-Indigenous student of Scottish, Jamaican, and Irish ancestry. I was raised on Six Nations territory in the region of Hamilton, Ontario. Coming to UBC for school was a spontaneous decision after deferring my admission to another university and taking a year off to save some money. In January of that year I began doing a bit of research only to discover that I would be able to afford going to UBC, applied two weeks before the application deadline, and was accepted! I went through school without much knowledge of Indigenous peoples and the tumultuous history (and present) of the Canadian state, so reading UBC's acknowledgement that the school was situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded and occupied land of the hən̓d̓əm̓iṇ̓əṇ̓-speaking Musqueam people made me wonder, "What does it mean to acknowledge that and how does the acknowledgement affect Musqueam's relationship with UBC and vice versa?" I enrolled in the then year-long FNISP 100 course with Daniel Justice and David Gaertner to discover some answers to these questions, and by the end of that first semester I knew that this was the program and community I wanted to be a part of. I am now working on a double major in First Nations and Indigenous Studies and Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice Studies.

During my first year, I was like many new students, smothering myself in information, readings, lectures, conversations, and experiences while simultaneously trying to figure out how I fit into it all. The following September I decided to take hən̓d̓əm̓iṇ̓əṇ̓ with Elder Larry Grant and Dr. Patricia Shaw in the First Nations and Endangered Languages Program in order to fulfill my language requirement. My other motivation for taking it was wanting to learn more about the Musqueam community in hopes of better understanding the meaning of UBC's acknowledgement. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences getting to travel to the reserve to participate in such a thriving community and seeing first-hand just how much of an impact language revitalization efforts can make in Indigenous communities. This summer, I was accepted as an intern to the Indigenous Health Research and Education Garden at the UBC Farm with the intention of developing deeper connections to the land and community we are so lucky to be a part of here. My interest lay in better understanding the concept of food as medicine and as a way to cultivate meaningful relationships with others. Further, I hope that some day soon there will be an on-the-land learning component of the FNIS program in order to help students put the theory we learn in class into praxis in a local community setting.

As of right now I'm not entirely sure of where I want go after completing my undergraduate degree although I am a firm believer that education is never wasted, regardless of where you end up. My hope is that I am able to support my friends and peers in their healing process by helping to make space for them as experts of their own lives in the university and in greater society. The relationships we develop in FNIS are by far the best part of the program: genuinely feeling like you have a tight-knit community to lean on for love, care, and support from your peers, professors, and our wonderful administration. Thank you! ■

“ I went through school without much knowledge of Indigenous peoples and the tumultuous history (and present) of the Canadian state... ”



GRADUATION DATE

MAY 2017

HOME

HAMILTON, ONT

FAVOURITE FNIS COURSE

REPRESENTATION & INDIGENOUS
CULTURAL POLITICS FNIS 220

SAMPLE OF **COURSE OFFERINGS**

**FNIS 100
001/002**

How do we learn to live together?

TAKE: INDIGENOUS FOUNDATIONS

**FNIS
401F 101**

How can new media & digital storytelling support Indigenous knowledges?

TAKE: INDIGENOUS NEW MEDIA

**FNIS
401G 101**

Where is Indigenous law in the settler state?

TAKE: INDIGENOUS LAW & THE SETTLER STATE

**FNIS
401J 101**

What do we find at the intersection of Indigenous & Asian-Canadian relations?

**TAKE: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON
INDIGENOUS & ASIAN CANADIAN RELATIONS**

What strategies do Indigenous communities employ when resource extractive industries seek access to their traditional lands?

TAKE: INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES & RESOURCE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

**FNIS
401L 101**

How are Indigenous ways of being, knowing, & relationship to place expressed & affirmed through the Performing Arts?

TAKE: POLITICS, PROTOCOL, & PLACE IN INDIGENOUS PERFORMING ARTS

**FNIS
401M 101**

How might Indigenous Feminisms transform settler colonial power relations?

TAKE: INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS

**FNIS
451 101**

What role should culture & tradition play in informing Indigenous struggles for land & freedom?

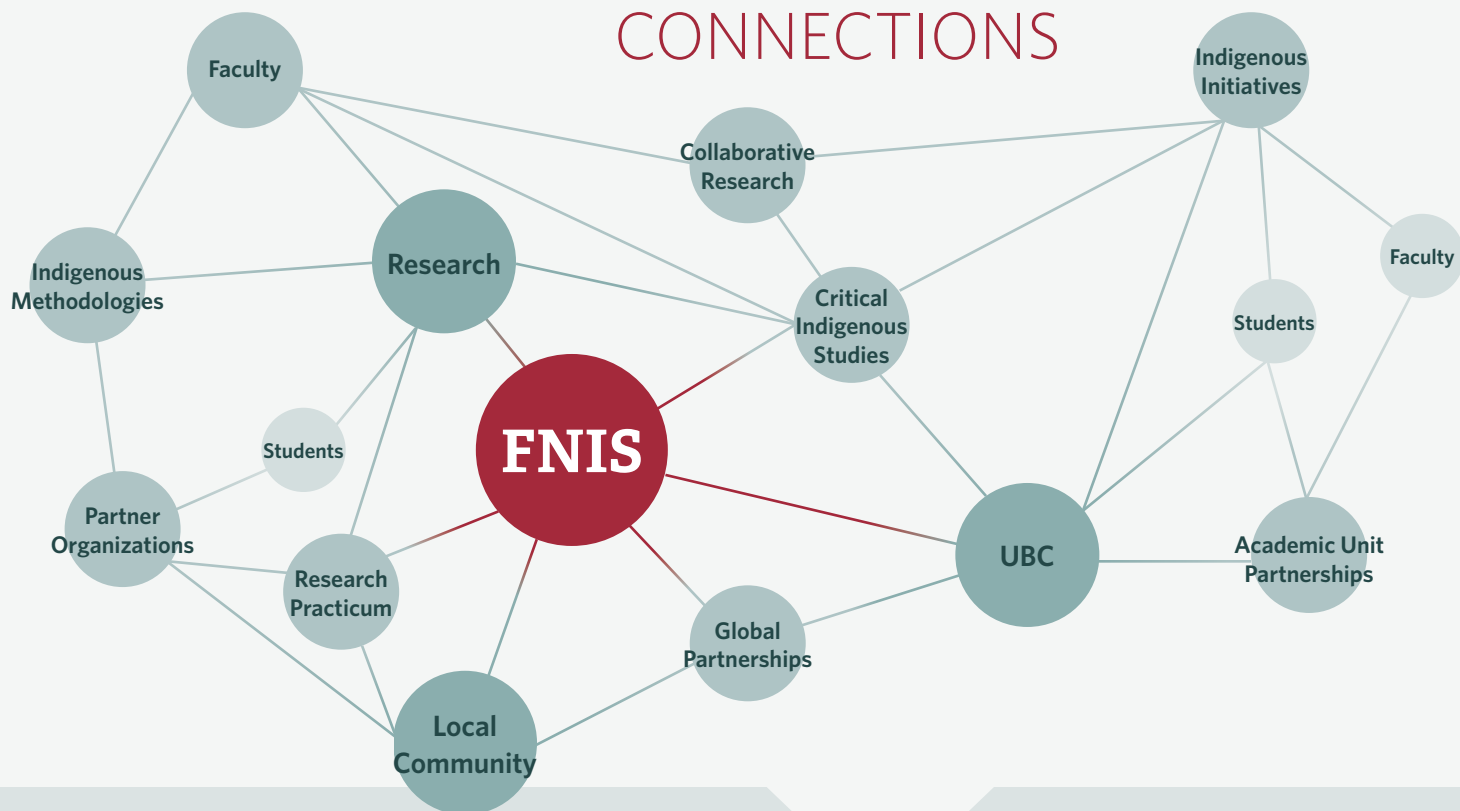
TAKE: INDIGENOUS SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

**FNIS
452 101**

SEE FULL COURSE LIST AT:

fnis.arts.ubc.ca/current-students/program

INFLUENCES & CONNECTIONS



DID YOU KNOW?



Est. 2001

THE FIRST NATIONS & INDIGENOUS STUDIES PROGRAM (FNIS—FORMERLY FNISP) WAS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FACULTY OF ARTS. AT THAT TIME IT OFFERED ONLY ONE COURSE: FNISP 200.



15 Courses

THE FNIS PROGRAM CURRICULUM CURRENTLY OFFERS 15 PATH-CLEARING COURSES, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS NEW MEDIA & INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS IN 2015-2016.



20+ Academic Disciplines

STUDENTS CAN TAKE COURSES IN OVER 20 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES INCLUDING FNEL, HIST, GEOG, POLI, ENG, GRSJ, AND MORE!



7 Distinguished Faculty

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS, TRUDEAU FELLOWSHIP, UBC KILLAM TEACHING PRIZE, AND PETER WALL SCHOLAR RESEARCH AWARD ARE JUST A FEW OF THE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS RECEIVED BY FNIS FACULTY MEMBERS.



45 Partner Organizations

FNIS ALUMNI HAVE COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH 45 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GREATER VANCOUVER AREA AND BEYOND.

FNIS connections begin locally and extend globally, rooted in the Program's commitments to cutting-edge academic research and meaningful engagement with diverse Indigenous communities in BC and around the world.

ALUMNI SUCCESSES

After graduation, FNIS alumni have pursued fulfilling careers in a variety of fields, including but not limited to:

- Graduate education
- Community development
- Inter-governmental relations
- Cultural resource management
- Education
- Social work
- Film production
- Academic advising
- Resource management

First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program

Buchanan A240, 1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1

Phone 604 822 2905 Fax 604 827 5101 fnis.arts@ubc.ca fnis.arts.ubc.ca



**FIRST NATIONS
& INDIGENOUS STUDIES**
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA