

NATIVE AMERICAN & INDIGENOUS STUDIES

Indiana University

Newsletter

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INTERVIEW WITH SCOUT LANDIN

When did you graduate from IU and what was your major?

I graduated from IU this summer with a double major in Anthropology and Food Studies.

What was your senior thesis about and why did you choose this topic?

For my senior thesis, I did a comparison of the Ojibwe (northern woodlands tribe) and Tlingit (Alaskan Native tribe) traditional food systems and processes. I focused on key animal and plant usages based on geography, as well as traditional knowledge of food processes (how to cook, clean, gather these foods), and the cultural importance placed on these particular foods and practices. I chose these two particular tribes because they are a part of my heritage. My Grandfather is part of the Huna Tlingits and my Grandmother is a Lac Du Flambeau band of Lake Superior Chippewa. I wanted to look at the differences and similarities between these two unique Indigenous groups.

How did you become interested in Native American issues?

Well, I have always been interested in Native American issues, especially sustainability, climate change and our culture being more prevalent in the dominant society. But what I think is incredibly important is having Native students do scholarly work on Indigenous groups throughout their college career, and even beyond. The way I see it, throughout history our stories have died, burned or have been strategically erased in the making of this country. Our act of

researching, writing, sharing, etc. is revolutionary. This is our chance to tell our stories and collective memories. Now I can share some Native culture through the act of eating and cooking food and I hope people will become more interested in our way of life and show some respect.

What did you enjoy most about doing this research?

My favorite part of my research was trying all the new and unique foods I ate. Growing up I always had a lot of Ojibwe foods like wild rice, venison, and strawberries. But thanks to the Individualized Major Program (IMP) learning experience grant, I was able to study the foods and practices of the Huna Tlingit in Juneau, Alaska. I tried so much seafood, from crab to fish eggs to seal oil. I really got firsthand knowledge on one of my favorite things, eating!

What was hardest?

One of the hardest parts of my research was putting everything I learned into words. A lot of the things I learned were verbally expressed to me through traditional stories, conversations with elders and being within the community doing hands-on learning. I wanted to fully acknowledge the intricacies without it becoming "pan-Indian" (and I define this as the homogenization of tribes across America in white dominant culture) or prejudiced.

What were you surprised by while conducting this research?

How deeply connected Tlingit people are, not only with the land in which they inhabit, but with the water as well. Water

is their lifeblood and their sustenance comes from that, so it's inherently important and respected as such. But mostly, how in general, Natives share a connectedness to the Earth and the Great Spirit. No matter where we come from, we can respect each other and where we come from. And it is so awesome to see that, from Indiana to Wisconsin to Alaska in my research this past year.

Did conducting this research affect how you see your own identity?

It very much so changed the way I see myself in the world. Indiana is very far from Alaska and the Tlingit way, and by doing this research I was able to dive deep into the traditions and practices, especially with food and clan elders in the community. I got to connect with family again for the first time in almost 20 years. I think I learned more to be proud of myself, and don't be afraid to show you really are. Especially, being a biracial person, I always felt I wasn't good enough or "Native" enough, and I learned that doesn't mean you're less Native. I am fortunate to have the point of view I have and to express that is pretty neat.

Did this research affect your career goals in any way?

It didn't really affect my career goals as of right now. My next big plan is to go to culinary school and see where that takes me. But I have found new appreciation for studying indigenous food systems and maybe hope to work on that in the future again and connect that to my passion of making food as well.



Scout Landin graduated from Indiana University in 2018.

INTERVIEW WITH RYAN ROUSSEAU

What program are you in at IU and what drew you to this program?

I'm in my third year of the Gender Studies Ph.D. Program at IU. Aside from logistical things like funding and reputation, I was drawn to IU's Gender Studies Department because of its interdisciplinary emphasis and openness to different ways of imagining Gender Studies. The department encourages you as a student to develop your own take on what gender studies means to you. It's less interested in guarding disciplinary boundaries and more interested in intersections. It offered me a scholarly space where I could create my own graduate school experience, and this flexibility fit well with my aims that are deeply cross-disciplinary.

What is your dissertation about?

My dissertation seeks to bridge Critical Indigenous Studies with Feminist Science and Technology Studies through thinking about global catastrophe and environmental toxicity specifically as it relates to water and access to clean water. I'm interested in how we reconcile multiple knowledge systems co-existing at one time in this current moment of impending environmental catastrophes of various kinds and connected crises about toxicity at different scales. I want to explore what it means to investigate climate change and environmental disaster in a way that goes against the post-Enlightenment way of thinking that permeates the academy. Basically, I'm interested in what would it mean to honor and center different ways of knowing and being in thinking through these questions of global environmental crisis, and I plan to do this through a focus on un/clean water. So environmental racism - the idea that already more vulnerable communities, those with intersecting marginalities, such as queer POCs, are going to be more affected by global

environmental catastrophe and contaminated water - is very much well established. My interest is more in how these communities formulate resistance to this dynamic? How do they work against those things? How do they make sense of them? What can we do with that and what does it tell us about the world that we live in more broadly? So beyond bringing these questions of difference to existing conversations about global catastrophes, the environment, and toxicity I want to do this in a way that does not reinscribe the metonymic shift that conflates native and nature, which has always been used to erase and marginalize native bodies again and again. This conflation of native/nature so prevalent in scholarship of native peoples and environment works to keep the native body located in the past rather than in the present and is, and always has been, a tool of genocide and erasure.

What drew you to this issue?

During my first year of grad school I was taking classes in gender studies and working through towards questions of race, gender, and intersectionality at the same time as I was doing a lot of activist work around the Dakota Access Pipeline, but I wasn't really putting these things together or thinking of them as inter-related. That summer I went out West to work in Yellowstone National Park and I had the time to really meditate on what grad school meant for me while I was also coming to realize what a different relationship with water people have in the West. I quit the job and drove across the West with a friend and we were staying in places without access to clean water and I started to really think through this issue of clean water access and how it relates to indigenous peoples, gender, and broader global crisis narratives. It all started to click

during that trip.

What scholars would you put in the indigenous STS canon, or who would you recommend someone interested in similar questions about indigenous peoples, environments, and gender read?

Linda Tuhiwai Smith , Kim Tall Bear, Elizabeth Hoover, Glen Coulthard are some people doing work I'm really inspired by. Some do more STS than others.



Ryan Rousseau is a Ph.D. Student in the Indiana University Gender Studies Department.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following grants, fellowships, and scholarships are available for Native studies and/or students working within Native Studies and have upcoming deadlines.

2019-2020 Native American Scholars Initiative (NASI) Opportunities

The American Philosophical Society invites applications for predoctoral, postdoctoral, and short-term research fellowships and internships from scholars at all stages of their careers, especially Native American scholars in training, tribal college and university faculty members, and other scholars working closely with Native communities on projects in Native American and Indigenous Studies and related fields and disciplines. These funding opportunities are supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Native American Scholars Initiative (NASI). Fellows and interns will be associated with the APS's [Center for Native American and Indigenous Research](#) (CNAIR), which promotes greater collaboration among scholars, archives, and Indigenous communities.

Predoctoral Fellowship (deadline February 1, 2019)

This 12-month residential fellowship is intended for an advanced Ph.D. student working toward completion of the dissertation. A stipend of \$25,000 (plus benefits) will be awarded to the successful applicant, who will have desk space at the APS Library. In addition, the predoctoral fellow will receive \$5,000 in funding to support outside research, fieldwork, and/or travel. Further information about the fellowship and application process can be found at <https://apply.interfolio.com/56007>.

Postdoctoral Fellowship (deadline February 1, 2019)

This 12-month residential fellowship is intended for a recent Ph.D., professor at any level seeking sabbatical support for a research project, or an independent scholar working closely with an Indigenous community on a project. A stipend that includes the option for health benefits will be awarded to the successful applicant, who will have desk space at the APS Library. The stipend will be in the \$45-60K range (depending on benefits). In addition, the postdoctoral fellow will receive \$5,000 in funding to support outside research, fieldwork, and/or travel. Further information about the fellowship and application process can be found at <https://apply.interfolio.com/55932>.

Short-term Digital Knowledge Sharing Fellowship (deadline March 1, 2019)

These fellowships are open to scholars working on Native American and Indigenous topics who need to do archival research at the APS Library or elsewhere in order to complete their projects. Preference will be given to those who are working closely with Native communities and who plan to share their research with Native communities. The stipend is \$3,000 plus the costs associated with visiting the APS for the summer 2019 DKS workshop. Further information about the fellowship and application process can be found at <https://apply.interfolio.com/56341>.

Undergraduate Summer Internship (deadline February 15, 2019)

These paid 8-week internships provide three talented undergraduates with the opportunity to conduct research, to explore career possibilities in archives and special collections, and to learn about advanced training in Native American and Indigenous Studies and related fields. The internship will take place from mid-June to mid-August 2019. During this time students will work at the APS Library and may have the opportunity to travel to Native communities to share their work. The stipend is between \$3000 and \$3500 (depending on housing costs), plus a travel allowance. Further information about the internship and application process can be found at <https://apply.interfolio.com/56020>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the websites below for more information and upcoming NAIS events

IU First Nations Educational and Cultural Center
<https://firstnations.indiana.edu>



Past NAIS Newsletters

<http://www.indiana.edu/~amst/NAIS/newsletters.shtml>

The American Indian Studies Research Institute
<http://www.indiana.edu/~aisri/>

Mathers Museum of World Cultures



<https://mathersmuseum.indiana.edu/index.html>

Mathers Museum

The Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology

<https://gbl.indiana.edu/>

