



2019 SICC ē-micimināyakik Gathering
Museums, Cultural Centres, Archives, Interpretive Centres & Libraries
Panel 2
Jessie Ryker-Crawford, Felipe Colón & Val Napoleon

Title: Preparing our Peoples: Indigenous Education in Cultural Preservation and Property Law
Presenter: Jessie Ryker-Crawford, Felipe Colón & Val Napoleon

Biography: Dr. Jessie Ryker-Crawford (White Earth Anishinaabe) is an associate professor of the Museum Studies Department at IAIA. She received her PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology through the University of Washington, exploring the crucial changes in the museum field through the activism of US Native American and Canadian First Nation artists and museum professionals. She has presented material on her studies at various conferences including the National Congress of the American Indian and the International World Archaeological Congress. She currently sits on the board of the Journal for Museums and Social Issues and continues to act as a consultant for tribal museums and cultural centers across the US.

Biography: Felipe Estudillo Colón (Laguna Pueblo) is an assistant professor of Museum Studies at IAIA. He has a graduate degree in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico with a focus in SW/Puebloan history. He served six years as the curator for the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM. His professional experience includes cultural resource management, collections management, curation, and educational programing/resource development with a focus on intergenerational learning. In 2012, he began work at IAIA. He served two years as the IAIA campus gallery director before joining the faculty in the Museum Studies Department. Felipe has served as Faculty Council Chair and is currently the Museum Studies Department Chair.

Biography: Dr. Val Napoleon, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria: Indigenous People's Counsel, Indigenous Bar Association; Law Foundation Chair of Aboriginal Justice and Governance; Director, JID/JD [Joint Indigenous and Common Law Degree Program] and the Indigenous Law Research Unit; and Provost's Engaged Community Scholar. Dr. Napoleon's current research focuses on Indigenous legal traditions, legal theories, feminisms, citizenship, self-determination, and governance. Several of her major initiatives include establishing and directing the Indigenous Law Research Unit, and developing and directing the JID (dual JD and indigenous law degree) program launched in September 2018. She works with numerous Indigenous community partners across Canada on a range of Indigenous law research projects (e.g., Indigenous water law, harms and injuries, gender in Indigenous law, and lands and resources) and also with several national and international Indigenous law research initiatives. Some of the courses she teaches are Indigenous feminist legal studies, Gitxsan land law, property and transsystemic property, Indigenous legal theories, and Indigenous legal methodologies. She is from the Saulteau First Nation (BC Treaty 8) and am an adopted member of the House of Luuxhon, Ganada, from Gitanyow (northern Gitxsan).

Abstract: Jessie and Felipe will talk about the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) which is a multi-tribal college and offers the only Native American-based museum studies program in the US. Their curricula focus upon the field of museology through an Indigenous lens; courses in their baccalaureate degree diverge from mainstream academic programs in that they interweave Native American knowledges, lifeways, philosophical understandings, and cultural concerns surrounding the collection and exhibition of Native American cultural property and heritage. This panel will present the ways that IAIA addresses the collection and presentation of Native American cultural heritage through inclusivity and the active voice of tribal communities.



Val will talk about how many of the conversations about Indigenous cultural heritage are concerned with the extent to which international and domestic law can protect Indigenous intellectual property and cultural materiality. Val will discuss Indigenous legal perspectives on forms of intellectual property, ownership, expression and recording, trade, governance, and land. To do so, she will focus on Gitksan intellectual property law and current issues regarding protection, legal history and change, and economic and political contexts. There are thorny issues and complicated tensions, and there are no answers. Perhaps there is a need to seek comfort by comprehending the tensions and issues, and finding our own ways within them.

Learning Objectives: Participants will:

- Explore ways that academia can better serve the first peoples of North America through more truthful and inclusive learning;
- Investigate course development and material that implements and celebrates Indigenous constructs;
- Discover the phenomenal outcomes that arise through alternative means of education;
- Learn about conversations surrounding international and domestic law protecting Indigenous intellectual property and cultural materiality; and,
- Indigenous legal perspectives.