

# Indigenous Literary Studies Association

## Program for Virtual Gathering 2021



**Nuna pigitjangittavut, nunattinut pigijauvugut / La terre ne nous appartient pas.**

**Nous appartenons à la terre. / The land does not belong to us. We belong to the  
land.**

**June 7-11, 2021**

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, JUNE 7

- ❖ Conference Opening by **Elder Gilman Cardinal** & Address by **Marilyn Dumont**: **08:00 PST / 09:00 MST/CST / 10:00 CDT / 11:00 EST / 17:00 CEST**
- ❖ Keynote: ‘Reflections on Poetic Method and Decolonization’ by **Billy-Ray Belcourt** with respondent **Daniel Heath Justice** (co-sponsored by CACLALS): **09:00-10:00 PST / 10:00-11:00 MST/CST / 11:00-12:00 CDT / 12:00-13:00 EST / 18:00-19:00 CEST**
- ❖ **Concurrent panels A and B**: **10:30-11:50 PST / 11:30-12:50 MST/CST / 12:30-13:50 CDT / 13:30-14:50 EST / 19:30-20:50 CEST**

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

- ❖ Live recording of **masinahikan iskwêwak/Book Women** podcast: **08:30-09:30 PST / 09:30-10:30 MST/CST / 10:30-11:30 CDT / 11:30-12:30 EST / 17:30-18:30 CEST**
- ❖ **Concurrent panels C and D**: **10:00-11:20 PST / 11:00-12:20 MST/CST / 12:00-13:20 CDT / 13:00-14:20 EST / 19:00-20:20 CEST**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

- ❖ **Renate Eigenbrod mentorship brunch**: **08:15-9:30 PST / 09:15-10:30 MST/CST / 10:15-11:30 CDT / 11:15-12:30 EST / 17:15-18:30 CEST**
- ❖ **Concurrent panels E and F**: **10:00-11:20 PST / 11:00-12:20 MST/CST / 12:00-13:20 CDT / 13:00-14:20 EST / 19:00-20:20 CEST**

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

- ❖ **The IVAs: Successes, Challenges, and Looking Ahead to the Future**: **08:15-09:00 PST / 09:15-10:00 MST/CST / 10:15-11:00 CDT / 11:15-12:00 EST / 17:15-18:00 CEST**
- ❖ **Celebration of new books & honouring those writers we have lost**: **09:15-10:30 PST / 10:15-11:30 MST/CST / 11:15-12:30 CDT / 12:15-13:30 EST / 18:15-19:30 CEST**
- ❖ **Concurrent panels G and H**: **11:00-12:20 PST / 12:00-13:20 MST/CST / 13:00-14:20 CDT / 14:00-15:20 EST / 20:00-21:20 CEST**

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

- ❖ **ILSA/CACLALS Roundtable on Black/Indigenous Solidarities**: **08:30-10:00 PST / 09:30-11:00 MST/CST / 10:30-12:00 CDT / 11:30-13:00 EST / 17:30-19:00 CEST**
- ❖ **Concluding panel: Why Indigenous Literatures Scholars Matter**: **11:00-12:30 PST / 12:00-13:30 MST/CST / 13:00-14:30 CDT / 14:00-15:30 EST / 20:00-21:30 CEST**

All times appear in the 24-hour clock

## DETAILED PROGRAM

Daily: Optional **relational walking practice** with audio prompt by [Prof. Dwayne Donald](#)

*This year's conference has been spread out over five half-days in order to allow participants some respite from the screen; some time to attend to other obligations, like carework; and some time to process and reflect. We hope that during the conference, you might therefore find time to get outside for the opportunity to move, to decompress--and to attend to the place from which you are joining this virtual gathering. To this end, we have asked Prof. Dwayne Donald (Papaschase Cree, University of Alberta) to guide us with a prompt for an optional daily relational walking practice. That audio file will be posted on Monday, May 31st--one week before our start date.*

*Want to share your experience? Use #ilsa2021 on your social media platform of choice!*

### DAY 1: Monday, June 7th, 2021

**08:00 PST / 09:00 MST/CST / 10:00 CDT / 11:00 EST / 17:00 CEST:**

**Opening Prayer with Elder Gilman Cardinal**

**08:15 PST / 09:15 MST/CST / 10:15 CDT / 11:15 EST / 17:15 CEST:**

**Address by Marilyn Dumont:** 'Where am I when I say I am in Alberta?: A talk and reading around archival research, family genealogy & land tenure in the province, territorial knowledge/acknowledgement and personal identity'

**9:00-10:00 PST / 10:00-11:00 MST/CST / 11:00-12:00 CDT / 12:00-13:00 EST / 18:00-19:00 CEST:**

**Keynote: Billy-Ray Belcourt,** 'Reflections on Poetic Method and Decolonization' with respondent **Daniel Heath Justice**

**10:00 PST / 11:00 MST/CST / 12:00 CDT / 13:00 EST / 19:00 CEST:**

**Break:** Optional Zoom visiting space and/or screen break

**10:30-11:50 PST / 11:30-12:50 MST/CST / 12:30-13:50 CDT / 13:30-14:50 EST / 19:30-20:50 CEST:**

All times appear in the 24-hour clock

**Session A: “Haudenosaunee Inheritances of Sound, Image, and Governance”**

**Chair: Kaitlin Debicki**

Gage Karahkwí:io Diabo, “‘I didn’t hear the birds singing’: The Sound of Condolence in Beth Brant’s Stories”

Rick Monture, “‘We want justice from now on’: Chief Deskaheh versus Truth and Reconciliation”

Alix Shield, “Picturing E. Pauline Johnson/Tekahionwake: Illustration and the Construction of Indigenous Authorship in *Legends of Vancouver*”

**Session B: “The Poetics of Land and Water Kinship”**

**Chair: Marie-Eve Bradette**

**Translator: Isabella Huberman**

Juliane Egerer, “Relating to Earth: The Western World in Dire need of Indigenous Knowledges – Learning with Transcultural Comparative Literary Studies”

Malou Brouwer, “Video poetry of/on the land: Heid Erdrich’s ‘Pre-Occupied’ and Natasha Kanapé Fontaine ‘Nous nous soulèverons’”

Camille Roberge, “Effritement des frontières : Création d'un cadre conceptuel pour l'analyse des littératures autochtones”

**11:50 PST / 12:50 MST/CST / 13:50 CDT / 14:50 EST / 20:50 CEST:**

**Zoom visiting space available**

**DAY 2: Tuesday, June 8th, 2021**

**08:30-09:30 PST / 09:30-10:30 MST/CST / 10:30-11:30 CDT / 11:30-12:30 EST /  
17:30-18:30 CEST**

**Live recording of Book Women/masinahikan iskwêwak podcast**

*Join the Book Women as they interview Dene/Métis author Tenille K Campbell about her new book, [nedí nezu](#). This is the final episode of Season 3 of the podcast.*

All times appear in the 24-hour clock

**09:30 PST / 10:30 MST/CST / 11:30 CDT / 12:30 EST / 18:30 CEST**

**Break:** Optional Zoom visiting space and/or screen break

**10:00-11:20 PST / 11:00-12:20 MST/CST / 12:00-13:20 CDT / 13:00-14:20 EST /  
19:00-20:20 CEST**

**Session C: Engaging Communities**

**Chair: Heather Phipps**

Renae Watchman, “Restor(y)ing Hane’, Kéyah, K’é (Stories, Land, Kinship)”

Stéphanie Pain, “Quelques réflexions sur le roman *Tant que couleront les rivières* de Larry Loyie”

Adar Charton and Tina Munroe, “Thunder Bay Library Rematriation Project”

Cory Charles Cardinal and Nancy Van Styvendale, “‘Within this architecture of oppression’: Prisoner Organizing through Writing during COVID-19”

**Session D: Speculative Fictions, Resurgent Futures**

**Chair: Daniel Heath Justice**

Tara Million, “Finding Contemporary Understandings of Wetiko Legal Principles in Cree and Anishinaabe Literature”

Josh Dawson, “Time After Time: Between Futurity and History in Waubgeshig Rice’s *Moon of the Crusted Snow*”

Melanie Braith, “Remediating Rougarou: Listening to Oral Storytelling in Cherie Dimaline’s Audiobook *Empire of Wild*”

Amy Farrell, “Imagining Land in Speculative Fiction: into a Journey of In-Progress Research Writing”

**11:20 PST / 12:20 MST/CST / 13:20 CDT / 14:20 EST / 20:20 CEST**

**Meeting of Indigenous Graduate Students! Activity-based Writing Session, run by Maddie Reddon**

*Métis scholar Maddie Reddon is hosting a writing workshop for Indigenous graduate students. Come prepared with a piece of writing you're working on: it can be your conference paper or any other work in progress!*

**Zoom visiting space also available**

### **DAY 3: Wednesday, June 9th, 2021**

**08:15-9:30 PST / 09:15-10:30 MST/CST / 10:15-11:30 CDT / 11:15-12:30 EST /  
17:15-18:30 CEST:**

#### **Renate Eigenbrod Mentorship 'Brunch'**

*Participants will be placed in small break-out rooms for informal discussion, visiting, mentoring, and connection. This event is held annually in memory of the late Prof. Renate Eigenbrod.*

**9:30 PST / 10:30 MST/CST / 11:30 CDT / 12:30 EST / 18:30 CEST:**

**Break:** Optional Zoom visiting space and/or screen break

**10:00-11:20 PST / 11:00-12:20 MST/CST / 12:00-13:20 CDT / 13:00-14:20 EST /  
19:00-20:20 CEST:**

#### **Session E: Métis Scholarship, Pedagogy, and Literary Art**

**Moderator: Aubrey Jean Hanson**

Celiese Lypka, "Métis Survivance: Land, Love, and Futures in Cherie Dimaline's Novels"

Chelsea Fritz, "Humiliating the Archive: Re-telling the Colonial Past in Vermette's *A Girl Called Echo Series*"

Matthew Tétreault, "'Ma douce contrée!': On the Writing of Home in Louis Riel's Poetry"

Nicki Ferland, "Stitching together a prairie land-based education"

#### **Session F: Gender and Relationships to the Land**

**Chair: Kristina Bidwell**

Catherine Lafferty, "Firekeeper book project"

Julia Siepak, “Sites of Extraction: Mapping the Poetics of Space in Recent North American Indigenous Women’s Writing”

Kai Orca, “‘Against That Whale’s Soft Skin’: Two-Spirit References in Thomas King’s *Green Grass, Running Water*”

Isabella Huberman, “From the Floodwaters: Stories of Hydro in Eeyou Istchee”

**11:20 PST / 12:20 MST/CST / 13:20 CDT / 14:20 EST / 20:20 CEST**

**Zoom visiting space available**

## **DAY 4: Thursday, June 10th, 2021**

**08:15-09:00 PST / 09:15-10:00 MST/CST / 10:15-11:00 CDT / 11:15-12:00 EST / 17:15-18:00 CEST:**

**The IVAs: Successes, Challenges, and Looking Ahead to the Future**

**09:15-10:30 PST / 10:15-11:30 MST/CST / 11:15-12:30 CDT / 12:15-13:30 EST / 18:15-19:30 CEST:**

**Celebration of New Books & honouring those writers we have lost  
with MC Tenille Campbell**

**11:30 PST / 11:30 MST/CST / 12:30 CDT / 13:30 EST / 19:30 CEST:**

**Break:** Optional Zoom visiting space and/or screen break

**11:00-12:20 PST / 12:00-13:20 MST/CST / 13:00-14:20 CDT / 14:00-15:20 EST / 20:00-21:20 CEST**

**Session G: Rethinking Methodology I: Creative and Embodied Research  
Chair: Jordan Abel**

Mackenzie Ground, “Steps to Heal: A Poetic Study of Walks”

Ramona Elke, “Preparing Spaces of Honouring: Creating Community, Creating Selves”

Lucien Darjeun Meadows, “Constellations of Place, Community, and Identity through Hybrid Writing”

Alexa Manuel, “Dreaming an Indigenous Literary Criticism”

**Session H: Rethinking Methodology II: Theorizing Otherwise**

**Chair: Keavy Martin**

Kristina Bidwell, “Beyond Polarization: Relationality and Mobility in Labrador Inuit Storytelling”

Mélissa Major, “Decolonizing Translation: The Example of the Translation in French of a Novel by Thomas King”

Jenna Hunnef, “D’Arcy McNickle’s *Runner in the Sun* and the Cross-Pollination of Scholarship and Pedagogy”

Smaro Kamboureli, “*Tia and Piujuq*: Inside and Beyond the Binary of Indigenous/Settler Relations”

**12:20-13:00 PST / 13:20-14:00 MST/CST / 14:20-15:00 CDT / 15:20-16:00 EST / 21:20-22:00 CEST**

**Zoom visiting space available**

**DAY 5: Friday, June 11th, 2021**

**08:30-10:00 PST / 09:30-11:00 MST/CST / 10:30-12:00 CDT / 11:30-13:00 EST / 17:30-19:00 CEST**

**“Because we need each other”: A Roundtable on Black-Indigenous Solidarities**

featuring:

**Tasha Beeds**

**Dr. Otoniya J Okot Bitek**

**Erica Violet Lee**

**Dr. Barbara McNeil**

**Host: Smokii Sumac**

with an introduction by **Dr. Kristina Bidwell**



*This event, organized alongside CACLALS as an annual roundtable event for Indigenous literatures, taking place since 2007, is meant to both to respond to specific events of 2020, a year in which the connections between Black and Indigenous struggles against white supremacy and settler colonialism have become even more apparent.*

*In light of the events of the past year(s), how can we better create conditions of solidarity between Indigenous and Black writing and scholarship? In what ways are Indigenous and Black experiences intertwined--and also distinct? Building on the 2018 ILSA/CACLALS roundtable held at First Nations University of Canada (“Sovereign Solidarities: Autonomy and Accountability in BIPOC Alliances”) and also subsequent work of numerous writers and scholars, we seek guidance on better ways of considering together and supporting the work of Black and Indigenous thinkers.*

**10:30 PST / 11:30 MST/CST / 12:30 CDT / 13:30 EST / 18:30 CEST:**

**Break:** Optional Zoom visiting space and/or screen break

**11:00-12:30 PST / 12:00-13:30 MST/CST / 13:00-14:30 CDT / 14:00-15:30 EST / 20:00-21:30 CEST**

**Closing Session: Why Indigenous Literatures Scholars Matter**

Dallas Hunt, “Big Picture Questions about Indigenous Literary Art and Its Study”

Johannah Bird, Daniel Coleman, Kaitlin Debicki, Maggie Ward, and Taif Zuhair, “Why Indigenous Literatures Scholars Matter”

**Closing Prayer with Elder Gilman Cardinal**

Post-conference Zoom visiting room available

## GRATITUDE

### We express our heartfelt thanks to:

- ❖ Our funders: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC); the Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS); CACLALS; Indigenous Education Initiatives at the Werklund School of Education (University of Calgary); ACCUTE; Wilfrid Laurier University Press; University of Manitoba Press; University of Regina Press; Queen’s University; ‘Allatiit/Titiraqtiit [The Writers]: Inuit Publishing 1960s-1980s’ (SSHRC); Department of English & Film Studies, University of Alberta;
- ❖ Taqralik Partridge, author of the poetry collection [curved against the hull of a peterhead](#) (PS Guelph, 2020), from which we draw our title;
- ❖ Matthew James Weigel, the artist behind “buffalo herd” (our cover image);
- ❖ Elder Gilman Cardinal;
- ❖ Our guest speakers: Marilyn Dumont, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Daniel Heath Justice, Kayla Lar-Son, Sheila Laroque, Tanya Ball, Tenille Campbell, Tasha Beeds, Dr. Otoniya J Okot Bitek, Erica Violet Lee, Dr. Barbara McNeil, and Smokii Sumac;
- ❖ Dr. Dwayne Donald for the relational walking practice audio prompt;
- ❖ Brittany Johnson for the bannock recipe;
- ❖ our panel chairs: Jordan Abel, Aubrey Jean Hanson, and Daniel Heath Justice;
- ❖ all participants in the book launch, and also those providing tributes;
- ❖ those who are acting as mentors, whether at the Renate Eigenbrod mentorship event or with the ILSA writing clusters;
- ❖ our interpreters, Isabella Huberman (French/English) and Debbie Parliament of Connect Interpreting Services (ASL);
- ❖ our colleagues championing the Indigenous Voices Awards (IVAs);
- ❖ our collaborators at CACLALS & ACCUTE;
- ❖ our ARC tech team, Clare Peters & Grant Wang;
- ❖ Dr. Amanda Spallacci, for website consulting work;
- ❖ Dr. Margaret Boyce, for podcast web support;
- ❖ Marshall Hill and Michelle Mahoney for event support;
- ❖ all of our presenters!
- ❖ Finally, we are grateful to our past Presidents and Council members & the entire extended ILSA community for having important conversations with us this year--and for sticking with us as we continue this work during COVID-19.

**kinanâskomitinâwaw**



Social Sciences and Humanities  
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**KIAS** | Kule Institute  
for Advanced Study



**CACLALS**

Indigenous Education Initiatives at the [Werklund School of Education](#)



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