

Native American & Indigenous Studies



2011 Powwow participants
(photo courtesy of FNECC)

Powwow

1 - Organizers of the 2012 Powwow are planning an expanded format for this year's event.

Symposium

2 - IUB welcomed visiting scholars for a discussion about the future of Critical Ethnic Studies.

Events

4 - Upcoming events for November's Native American Heritage month include speakers, crafts, and more.

Celebrating Culture, Developing Community

IUB's Second Annual Traditional Powwow

November 3-4, 2012, at the Union Street Center



Committee on Native American
& Indigenous Studies

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Indiana University's Second Annual Traditional Powwow will take place during the first weekend in November, Saturday and Sunday November 3-4.

Brian Gilley, NAIS co-chair and director of the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center (FNECC), explained that the purpose of the event is to demonstrate IUB's commitment to American Indian cultural education—not just on a local level, but on a national level as well. Gilley said that this year's event, which

features an expanded format, is “moving toward a national-sized Powwow.” Native American Studies departments, centers, and programs around the country are seeking greater participation and collaboration with local and national Indigenous communities. The 2012 Powwow achieves this goal by welcoming members of American Indian communities from near and far; IUB students, faculty, and staff; and members of the Bloomington community and surrounding area.

This year's event features two visiting drum circles, Brave Heart from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and Sauk Nation from Meskwaki, Iowa and Thaigi, Oklahoma. These drum groups showcase Northern and Southern styles, respectively, so participants will be able to experience different drumming traditions. In addition to the visiting drum groups, the FNECC drum circle will perform.

This year, the powwow will be held at

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Comparative Ethnic Studies Symposium

Exploring the role of Critical Ethnic Studies for NAIS, American Studies, and beyond

Clockwise from top left: attendees discuss the symposium. Visiting speaker Joseph Genetin-Pilawa delivers his talk. NAIS's Christina Snyder offers an introduction. (photos by Paula Cotner)

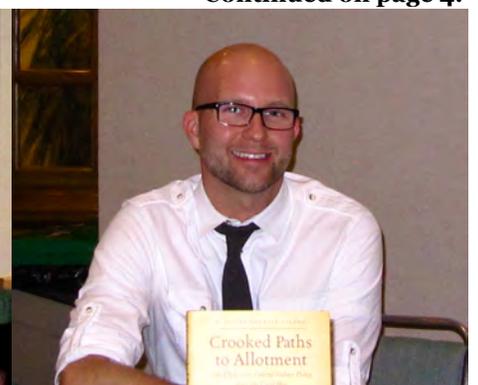
The first Comparative Ethnic Studies Symposium was held on Monday, October 22, at the Indiana Memorial Union. Karen Inouye, Assistant Professor of American Studies, helped to organize the event, which was sponsored by Asian American Studies, the Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society, American Studies, History, Latino Studies, and African American & African Diaspora Studies. Faculty members and students from these departments heard from two guest speakers, Eric Tang, Assistant Professor of Africana Diaspora & Asian

American Studies at University of Texas at Austin, and C. Joseph Genetin-Pilawa, Assistant Professor of History at Illinois College.

In addition, two panels promoted discussion about the future of Ethnic Studies at IU. In "Critical Ethnic Studies: Future Directions," faculty members spoke about the move from Ethnic Studies to *Critical* Ethnic Studies, which began in the 1990s. Critical Ethnic Studies entails more than describing the uniqueness of particular ethnic communities, which

may create essentialized categories. Critical Ethnic Studies scholars seek to describe and analyze the complexity of communal and individual identities in specific historical and geographical contexts, and draw on other categories of analysis—gender, sexuality, nationality, etc.—to deepen their analyses. What might this mean for NAIS? Rather than offering definitive answers, panelists posed questions that the NAIS community can consider as it collaborates with other units on campus.

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Faculty members from participating programs & departments discuss "Ethnic Studies: Possibilities & Directions at IUB"

Professor Genetin-Pilawa signed copies of his newly released *Crooked Paths to Allotment* (Duke University Press).

Indiana University Bloomington hosts Second Annual Traditional Powwow

IU's Union Street Center, which features different rooms for powwow activities—dancing, food vendors and art vendors—and dressing rooms for the participants. The Center's courtyard area offers a space for powwow events, as well.

Traditional dances are a significant part of the powwow, providing an opportunity for visitors to observe the dancers' skills as well as their beautiful regalia. This year, the head male dancer is Gilbert Brown (Meskwawki) and the head lady dancer is Cheryl McClellan (Sac and Fox). Unlike many national powwows, IUB's organizers will not be offering prizes for dancers. However, they will provide a community lunch on Saturday, catered by Bloomingfoods, to all participants and visitors.

What should visitors to the event expect? Terri Miles, a member of the Native American Graduate Students Association, explained that many newcomers do not initially realize that the purpose of a powwow is, in part, to meet people, hang out, and spend some time together. To this end, Miles reminded all participants to "Bring lawn chairs!" Miles noted that the emcee will explain the events as they happen, and will keep spectators informed of the lineup of events as well as audience protocol. This year's emcee is Terry Fiddler (Lakota).

Miles encouraged new visitors to make it to the Grand Entry, a powwow highlight. During the Grand Entry, all participants will proceed into the auditorium in their regalia. In addition to the procession, dances and drumming, visitors will be able to purchase food and handmade crafts from eight vendors, whose stands will be positioned in the lobby area.

The majority of FNECC's programming events will take place in November, which is Native American Heritage Month. This year's powwow will kick off the November programming, which offers even more opportunities to share and celebrate Native American culture.



Participants in the 2011 Powwow
(photo courtesy FNECC)

2012 Powwow Quick Guide

Date: Saturday-Sunday Nov. 3-4

Location: Union Street Center

Address: 445 N. Union St.

Doors open: 11:00

Grand Entry: 1:30

Community Lunch: 12:00 (Sat.)

The 2012 Powwow is sponsored by the Native American Graduate Students Association, Indiana University Students Association, and First Nations Educational & Cultural Center.



This year's Powwow venue, Indiana University's Union Street Center, offers separate spaces for different Powwow functions as well as a courtyard.
(photo courtesy of IUB housing)

Critical Ethnic Studies (Continued from page 2.)

Prof. Genetin-Pilawa's talk on Native peoples' experiences in Washington, D.C., was of particular interest to NAIS members. Genetin-Pilawa argued that history has covered up the fact that Native leaders have sought to leave their mark in the nation's capital. He shared his plans to develop digital resources that Native communities can use to gather resources from D.C.-area archives.

During a lunch break, Professor Tang and Professor Genetin-Pilawa met with graduate students to discuss graduate school, teaching, writing, the job market, and alternative career paths. Students from a number of different programs enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the visiting speakers and share their own work and experiences. One item of discussion that came up during the morning panel, graduate student lunch, and afternoon panel on "Critical Ethnic Studies: Possibilities and Directions at IUB" was the interdisciplinary nature of critical and comparative ethnic

studies research. For example, Professor Tang's work spans the fields of Africana and Asian-American studies. Panelists indicated that it is common for new faculty members in ethnic studies to have appointments in two—or even three—departments. This is also reflected in the interdisciplinary nature of Native American & Indigenous studies.

Ethnic studies at IUB has grown dramatically over the past five to ten years, and more events like the symposium will ensure these university-wide conversations will continue.

Accolades

Jason Baird Jackson,

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Folklore, and American Studies, was recently appointed to a three year term as faculty curator at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures.

In addition, Jackson's edited volume, *Yuchi Indian Histories Before the Removal Era*, was recently published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Congratulations, Jason!



Detail from book cover

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. (all month):** Native American Art installation @ IU Art museum.
- **Nov. 3-4** (doors @ 11): 2nd Annual Powwow @ Union Street Center.
- **Nov. 7** (6 pm): Walter Echo Hawk Keynote @ Neal Marshall Black Cultural Center Grand Hall.
- **Nov. 8** (10-12): Walter Echo Hawk Student Lecture @ IMU Frangipiani Room.
- **Nov. 10** (10-4): Beading Workshop with Marilyn Cleveland @ Mathers. Register by emailing fnecc@indiana.edu or calling (812) 855-4814.
- **Nov. 11** (10-4): Basketry Workshop with John Johnson @ Mathers. Register by emailing fnecc@indiana.edu or calling (812) 855-4814.

Calls for Papers

- **Nov. 15.** Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference, June 13-15, 2013 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Submit abstracts to: <http://www.naisa.usask.ca/>.
- **Nov. 16.** Environment, Ecology, and Native Nations, February 13-16, 2013. Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Association's 34th Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Submit abstracts to: <http://conference2013.swtxpca.org/>