

# Native American and Indigenous Studies Newsletter

Indiana University Bloomington



## Welcome to the Fall 2010 NAIS Newsletter

Matthew Guterl  
Director, American Studies

Native American and Indigenous Studies at Indiana University is not really a new thing. For a long time, the Bloomington campus has featured faculty and students with an abundant interest in this field. Over this longer view, prominent institutions have emerged here - for instance, the American Indian Studies Research Institute - to serve as foundations for scholarship and community. They were built slowly, painstakingly, and lovingly, and they serve as a foundation for the present.

Still there is something decidedly different about the state of things today. There is now a doctoral minor offered in Native American and Indigenous Studies. There is a committed faculty group, known as the Committee on Native American and Indigenous Studies. And there is a strong and meaningful partnership with American Studies. As a result of these things, which sit on top of that long history, there is, perhaps, great hope for the future of this field here at IU.

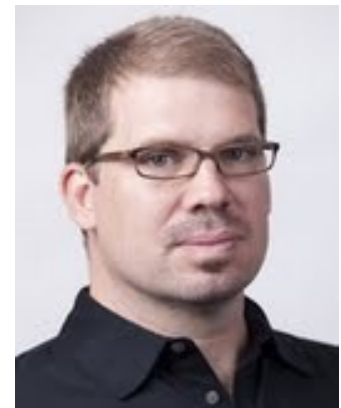
We can also say that we have a newsletter. It would be easy to dismiss such a thing, especially in the face of other accomplishments, but that would be a mistake. Big things grow out of newsletters, pamphlets, and broadsheets. Indeed, at the very least, this newsletter is a critical part of finding the “we” here on a bewilderingly busy campus. Still, I also hope, more than anything else, that this first issue of the 2010-11 school year is the continuation of something new and something bold.

The 2010-2011 academic year is an important one for the Committee on Native American and Indigenous Studies – filled with opportunity. An external review commissioned by the College in the previous academic year endorsed the partnership of NAIS and American Studies, and encouraged mutually beneficial growth and expansion. A committee of NAIS faculty, working through the fall and spring semesters, produced a proposal for an undergraduate minor, soon to be submitted to the full Committee, and then to the College and campus, for approval. NAIS is poised to offer the first section of a new undergraduate class, “Introduction to Native American & Indigenous Studies,” in the fall of 2011. The doctoral minor is now in its third year. With the help of faculty from the Committee, a new faculty head of the campus’s FNECC has been hired, paving the way for imaginative partnerships with AISRI, American Studies, and NAIS. These indications of promise are, of course, a reflection of the dedicated faculty interested in the development of the program, and volunteering their time and effort to make something new and vital. To realize these opportunities and sustain this momentum, we need the continued generosity of our committed faculty, the sustained interest of our students, and, most importantly, the expanded support of the College and the campus.

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### Special points of interest:

- *Welcome to the Fall 2010 NAIS Newsletter*
- *What is the PhD minor in Native American & Indigenous Studies?*
- *Faculty Feature: Jason Baird Jackson*
- *American Indian Studies Research Institute*



Matthew Guterl  
Director of American Studies  
Program

## Faculty Feature: Jason Baird Jackson, Folklore Native American and Indigenous Studies at Indiana University Bloomington

Indiana University is a major, multi-campus research university located in the homelands of numerous Native American nations and communities. That some of these peoples were forced from their Indiana lands and that other Native peoples called Indiana home for a time during their own painful histories of westward removal is something that the faculty and students of the Native American and Indigenous Studies community at Indiana University work to be constantly mindful. Some of us study this complex and painful history while others collaborate with contemporary communities that continue, whether they reside here today or not, to see Indiana as their homeland. Remembering the living significance of this place, and of this history, is an obligation and a starting point. Our state's, and our university's, name literally means Indian Country.

Across several disciplines, the field of Native American and Indigenous studies has a long history at Indiana University, one that goes back to the 1930s. Faculty of that era included Glenn A. Black and Georg Neumann, specialists in the archaeology of Native North America. Stith Thompson, founder of folklore studies at IU and was then the leading scholar of American Indian narrative arts. In 1941, IU hired Carl Voegelin to foster the creation of the Department of Anthropology and he led a small group of fellow anthropologists who were united in the pursuit of linguistic, ethnographic, archaeological, and historical research aimed at fostering better understanding of Native American Indian peoples. Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin was--at this key early period--appointed as a professor in history and her lifelong focus was also Native American studies. During her career at IU, she founded the interdisciplinary field of ethnohistory

and its national organization, which is known today as the American Society for Ethnohistory. The research that she and her graduate students pursued resulted in the unique campus research collection known as the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Archives. While Voegelin played a key role in the development of linguistic research at IU, Wheeler-Voegelin was another key figure in the growth of folklore teaching and research on campus. Among other founding figures of the early period was also ethnomusicologist George Herzog, a student of Native American music and the founding director of the Archives of Traditional Music. From its earliest days, Native Studies at IU was an interdisciplinary effort built upon strong disciplinary foundations. Anthropology, history, folklore, music, and linguistics remain key areas of strength for us.

The catalog of IU Native studies scholars and institutions--past and present--is too vast to catalog in a brief article, but the fuller story includes the establishment of the American Indian Studies Research Institute in 1985 and the growth of important research collections at the Archives of Traditional Music (including the Archives of the Language of the World), the Mathers Museum, and the Glenn Black Laboratory of Archaeology. It also includes the many undergraduate and graduate students trained across a range of fields over many decades. Representative of this excellent band of scholars is Dell Hymes (1927-2009), a scholar who devoted his life to the study of American Indian languages and verbal arts. Hymes, who passed away last year, held faculty positions at Berkeley, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, from which he had retired as Commonwealth Professor of Anthropology, *Emeritus*. Voegelin's student and one

of the earliest recipients at IU of the Ph.D. (1955) in linguistics, his influence is evident in the respect with which he was held in Indian Country as well as by his service as President of the American Anthropological Association, the American Folklore Society, and the Linguistic Society of America. Like the IU Native American and Indigenous Studies community, Hymes was energetic, scholarly, and committed to being useful to Indian Country. He controlled and contributed to his disciplines while working across them to also build a serious approach to American Indian studies.

The latest addition to this landscape is the Ph.D. minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS). Most doctoral programs on the IU campus call upon students to go beyond their home department to gain training in a complementary field. Building upon the strength of NAIS related offerings already found across the campus, the Ph.D. minor provides a framework through which doctoral students can gain familiarity with the NAIS fields across several departments while also gaining exposure to the contemporary--and increasingly autonomous--interdisciplinary field of Indigenous studies.

The NAIS Ph.D. minor and other emergent cross-departmental programs in Native studies are stewarded by a group of faculty known as the "Committee on Native American and Indigenous Studies." This faculty group is working on developing durable but flexible frameworks for governing itself and overseeing the new doctoral minor. Plans for an undergraduate minor are in development and the faculty hope to see the establishment of a formal director role to

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provide leadership for these programs. As currently constituted, the Ph.D. minor is stewarded administratively by the American Studies Program. The American Studies Program and its Director, Matthew Guterl have played a major role in fostering the growth of these NAIS initiatives and the two programs are strong partners.

To facilitate this partnership, the American Studies Program Executive Committee has voted to increase its membership to include two representatives of the Committee on Native American and Indigenous Studies. Assistant Professor of Education Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz (Navajo) and I were honored to fill these roles during 2009-2010. The NAIS faculty are currently preparing to select a new representative to fill Professor Yazzie-Mintz' position and elections for these representative positions will happen each year, with colleagues filling two year, rotating terms. The faculty in the American Studies Program have been extremely generous in supporting the growth of NAIS, providing both resources to support lectures and other events and, as importantly, deep and real intangible support on every front. The Program Staff in American Studies has similarly done much to assist our efforts and the NAIS students. Beginning last year and continuing this year, the College of Arts and Sciences has funded an assistantship/fellowship to support a NAIS doctoral student. Editing this newsletter is one of the duties of this student colleague. This office was well filled by Joseph

Stahlman (Tuscarora) in 2009-2010 and Standing Bear (Brad) Kroupa (Arikara) holds this post for 2010-2011. Both are Ph.D. students in the Department of Anthropology.

Looking at the recent history of NAIS at IU, there are achievements to be proud of and challenges to address. Our community can be proud of the success of the new interdisciplinary seminar G605 Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies. This required colloquium-style seminar was led by Professor Guterl in 2008 and by welcome new faculty colleague in history Christina Snyder in 2010. This required course has now been taken by 14 graduate students representing a range of home departments. It has also provided the basis for bringing an impressive range of visitors to campus for public lectures and small-group study with seminar students. This course will be taught again by Professor Synder in spring 2011.

While a rich diversity of courses in NAIS are available to Ph.D. minor students, the faculty is aware that these courses are not evenly distributed across the academic year or the range of disciplines. This is a problem common to interdisciplinary programs reliant on departmental course offerings. The faculty is committed to collaborating with each other and the chairs of the various departments to address this challenge in the years ahead. We will also continue to advocate additional hiring of faculty in core disciplines for the wider field at Native Ameri-

can studies that are absent on the IU campus. Native American art history and Native American literature are two areas of special interest in this connection.

Thanks go to all who have supported the longterm growth of NAIS at IU. Thanks go as well to the students, staff, faculty and administrators who have provided support and encouragement for the establishment of the Ph.D. minor and other recent accomplishments.

*Jason Baird Jackson is an associate professor of folklore and a representative of the Committee on Native American and Indigenous Studies to the American Studies Executive Committee. He has collaborated with the Euchee (Yuchi) community in Oklahoma since 1993.*



## PhD minor in Native American & Indigenous Studies

Students who pursue the PhD minor in Native American & Indigenous Studies will focus their interdisciplinary study on the histories, cultures, and literatures of Native American and Indigenous peoples, chiefly in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, but also, where appropriate, in the broader Americas. This is one of a very few programs in the United States that focus explicitly on Native American and Indigenous Studies at the graduate level, and that place the study of American Indians within the context of a broader, more sweeping and international inquiry into the nature of political power, colonial settlement, and global contact.

## American Indian Studies Research Institute

**Raymond J. DeMallie and Douglas R. Parks**

The American Indian Studies Research Institute has been an active participant in the life of IU since its founding in 1985. AISRI provides a center for faculty and students to pursue research and educational projects relating to American Indians, as well as publication outlets to make results generally available. The direction of research at AISRI reflects the work of its founders, Professors Raymond J. DeMallie (a cultural anthropologist) and Douglas R. Parks (a linguist), both members of IU's Department of Anthropology, who share a life-long passion for studying Plains Indians. DeMallie's work focuses on the Sioux and Assiniboine peoples on the northern Plains, and takes an ethnohistorical perspective—a multidisciplinary approach that combines the methods of anthropology and history. Parks, who also works with peoples on the northern Plains, is primarily a linguist. His work has focused on the Pawnee and Arikara peoples but includes the Lakota and Assiniboine as well and also involves ethnographic and ethnohistorical perspectives.

IU is a strategically appropriate location for AISRI because it has a long and preeminent history in American Indian studies and today has more campus-wide resources for the study of Indian people than perhaps any other university. Facilities and collections here include the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistorical Archives located in the Glen Black Lab of Archaeology, which has extensive archaeological collections and a library as well; the holdings of the Mathers Museum of World Cultures, which has unique collections of American Indian material objects and photographs; and the Archives of Traditional Music, which has one of the country's largest collections of wax cylinders documenting Indian languages and music from the early twentieth century, as well as the Archives of the Languages of the World that has the fieldnotes and sound recordings of past IU students in Anthropology and Linguistics who studied languages in the field. In addition to those resources, there are extensive collections of books, manuscripts and photographs in the Wells Library, the Lilly Library, the Mathers Museum, and the American Indian Studies Research Institute itself. In short, IU has massive holdings that are dispersed among many campus units and provide a treasure house of materials for IU faculty, students, and visiting scholars.



**The American Indian Studies Research Institute  
422 North Indiana Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47408**

### WHAT ARE THE MAJOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF AISRI?

One of the most important is documenting American Indian languages. Only a few of the approximately 225 languages of the U.S. and Canada are now spoken by more than 100 people and often by as few as one or two individuals. Because of this endangerment of a precious part of the American heritage, AISRI faculty and students have given priority to documenting Native American languages while it is still possible to accomplish.

Parks has documented the Pawnee and Arikara, which are historically related. When he began in the mid 1960s there were some 200 speakers of each language; now there are no more than one or two speakers. The Pawnee Nation was relocated from Nebraska to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) in the late nineteenth century. The Arikara live on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, which they share with two other tribes, the Hidatsa and Mandan. Parks has spent most of his career studying the two languages and to date has published a grammar and dictionary of Pawnee as well as teaching materials for use in the Arikara school. With the help of graduate students who are interested in these languages, including Standing Bear [Brad] Kroupa and Wanbdi Waci [Dancing Eagle] (both Arikara tribal members themselves), Josh Richards, Logan Sutton, and Indrek Park, additional documentary volumes are now being completed. *(These topics will be described in Vol.2 Issue 2—a special edition focused on Indian language revitalization)*



# Keeping up with NAIS at IUB

Interested in news from NAIS at IUB? Here are some ways to keep in touch.

Core announcements, such as for lectures and talks that we organize, will be publicized via our email list. To get on this list, or to confirm that you are on it, send an email to [nais@indiana.edu](mailto:nais@indiana.edu).

When news from the wider world of Native American and Indigenous Studies comes our way, we'll pass it on via the NAIS News weblog. You can consult this website at:

<http://iunais.wordpress.com/>

One easy way to get this information is to "subscribe" to it via email. Visiting the website, look for the "Email Subscription" tool on the right hand side of the page. This will allow you to set up an account to get these announcements by email.

As easy, is subscribing to the website via an RSS feed reader. To do this, visit the site and click the RSS icon in the URL bar in your web browser. To learn more about RSS services, do a web search for "RSS in Plain English." You will find a short, humorous and useful explanation of how RSS feeds work.

You can also get this information by following "IUB\_NAIS" on Twitter.

Finally, you can alternatively get this information by "liking" "Native American and Indigenous Studies at Indiana University" in Facebook.

## Conferences, Scholarships, and Events

### National Indian Education Association's 41st Annual Convention

The 2010 NIEA Convention will be held in San Diego, California at the Town & Country Resort, October 7-10, 2010. Mary Jane Oatman Wak-Wak, President Elect will be chairing the convention as it enters the 41st Convention! The oldest and largest Indian education organization in the country continues to grow offering a four day convention with many surprises and highlights in store. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan on attending the 41st Annual Convention.

### Indigenous Language Institute Symposium Series Presents: Native Language Terminology Development

The workshop will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, October 11-12, 2010.

Two-day symposium to convene community language experts, linguists, translators, tribal policy makers, and IT terminologists with the goal of sharing information and experience in terminology development and management and introducing symposium participants to important skills, existing tools and concepts for technology and techniques for developing useful and comprehensible terminology for their languages. The presentations will address the following topics: **Developing New Terminology:** approaches and methods used by Native communities and IT industries in creating new words. **Native Language in Information Technology:** software available to create online language environments such as websites, social network sites, mobile technology. **Community Adaptation of Technology:** use of technology tools to create environments where heritage language is everywhere, everyday for everyone.

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### UPCOMING ISSUES

Volume 2 Issue 2  
American Indian Language Revitalization