

STRASSLER CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST
AND GENOCIDE STUDIES, CLARK UNIVERSITY

GENOCIDE OF NATIVE AMERICANS?

15-16 APRIL 2016

President's Lecture: Colonial Genocides in Native North America - Varying Methods and Approaches

15 April, 2016

7:30 pm Razzo Hall, Traina Center for the Arts

Speaker: Ned Blackhawk (Yale University) [Listen to the audio from the event](#)

A member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, Blackhawk is a Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University, where he coordinates the Yale Group for the Study of Native America. He is the author of *Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* (Harvard, 2006), a study of the American Great Basin, which garnered numerous professional prizes, including the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize from the organization of American Historians. In his lecture, he will examine approaches to the study of genocide in native North America. He will chart the increased attention to the indigenous genocide in Canadian history and explore the reasons for the ongoing erasure of the subject in the study of U.S. history.

The study and prevention of genocide, mass atrocities, and crimes against humanity stand at the core of the mission of the Strassler Center, the foremost institution for doctoral education in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. At the leading edge of this emerging field, the Strassler Center has changed the academic landscape by establishing a PhD program and innovative transdisciplinary doctoral training. Home to the first fully endowed professorship in Holocaust history outside of Israel and the first endowed professorship in Armenian Genocide Studies, the Center seeks a new first: to examine the eradication of Native American culture in the context of research about colonialism, mass violence, and genocide. The plan to launch a program of teaching and research begins with the 16 April symposium to examine the impact of mass violence on the identities of contemporary indigenous peoples.

Research into the history of mass violence and cultural annihilation perpetrated against Native Americans fits into the vision and program of the Strassler Center which aims to strengthen the field of comparative genocide. Many scholars write and teach courses about North American Indians, but few focus on the destruction of tribal life and cultures. The Strassler Center aims to provide a rich institutional home for investigating the processes that resulted in the near annihilation of Native Americans and the range of responses by Native Americans to that multi-faceted assault. Questions about intent to commit genocide, how victims were chosen and targeted, what constitutes a victim group, expropriation of land and property, processes of destruction, the psychology and behavior of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders, and efforts to memorialize and promote justice resonate with the Center's research and teaching about a range of cases. Then too, Massachusetts is the site for some of the earliest sustained contact between Europeans and Native Americans and King Philip's War unfolded and reached its tragic conclusion in this region. Clark University is thus geographically well situated for the study of this critically important history. The consequences that resulted from sustained contact between European settlers and America's native populations include a litany of massacres, wholesale displacement, and cultural obliteration. Dedicated to critical research about a range of genocide cases, the Strassler Center now seeks to address these issues.

The April symposium will lay the groundwork for further activities that will include new coursework, joint programming, public lectures, and events. The Strassler Center has long engaged in pioneering research about genocides that occurred in locations far from home. Professor Blackhawk's lecture is sponsored by a generous gift from Clark alumnae Ellen Carno and Neil Leifer and with the support of Clark President David Angel. This event is open to the public and will take place on 15 April 2016 in Razzo Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Keynote Lecture for a Special Symposium of the Strassler Center

With the generous support of Ellen Carno '79 and Neil Leifer '76

Genocide of Native Americans? Indigenous Identity and Mass Violence in North America

16 April, 2016

8:45am - 6:30pm Higgins Lounge, Dana Commons Open to the Public

Schedule:

8:45 am: Welcome

Thomas Kühne, Strassler Professor of Holocaust History, Clark University

9-10 am: “The History of Violence, the Violence of History: Locating Genocide in the North American Past”

Karl Jacoby, Professor of History, Columbia University [Listen to the audio](#)

Moderator: Thomas Kühne, Clark University

<http://history.columbia.edu/faculty/JacobyK.html>

Karl Jacoby is a specialist in environmental, borderlands, and Native American history. He uses small, carefully crafted tales to address some of the largest issues in American history, from the role of the environment in shaping human power relations to the challenges of representing the profound violence experienced by North America’s indigenous peoples. His books include *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves and the Hidden History of American Conservation* (2014) and *Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the Violence of History* (2009)

10:15-11:15 am: “The U.S. Legal History and the On-Going Genocide of Native Americans”

Angelique EagleWoman, Professor of Law, University of Idaho [Listen to the audio](#)

Moderator: Sarah Cushman, Clark University

<http://www.uidaho.edu/law/faculty/angeliqueeaglewoman>

Angelique EagleWoman (Wambdi A. WasteWin), citizen of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, teaches in the areas of Native American Law, Native Natural Resources Law, Tribal Economics and Law, and Civil Procedure, served several terms as a board member of the National Native American Bar Association, an as Tribal Public Defender for the Kaw Nation and the Ponca Nation, both of Oklahoma. Recently, she has published book *Mastering American Indian Law* (2013, with co-author Stacy Leeds).

11:30-12:30 pm: “The State is a Man: Theresa Spencer, Lorraine Saunders and the Gendered Cost of Settler Sovereignty in Canada”

Audra Simpson, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University [Listen to the audio](#)

Moderator: Debórah Dwork, Clark University

<http://anthropology.columbia.edu/people/profile/375>

Audra Simpson (Mohawk) studies the problem of recognition, by its passage beyond (and below) the aegis of the state into the grounded field of political self-designation, self-description and subjectivity. This work is motivated by the struggle of Kahnawake Mohawks to find the proper way to afford political recognition to each other, their struggle to do this in different places and spaces and the challenges of formulating membership against a history of colonial impositions. Her books include *Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States* (2014), and *Theorizing Native Studies* (2014, co-edited with Andrea Smith).

2-3 pm: “Genocide in the Americas: Complexities, Contradictions, and Contested Narratives”
Alex Alvarez, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Northern Arizona University
Moderator: Henry Theriault, Professor of Philosophy, Worcester State University

<http://nau.edu/SBS/CCJ/Directory/Alvarez-Alex/>

Alvarez studies collective and interpersonal violence, including homicide and genocide. His books include *Governments, Citizens, and Genocide* (2001), *Murder American Style* (2002), *Violence: the Enduring Problem* (2008), *Genocidal Crimes* (2009), and, most recently, *Native America and the Question of Genocide* (2014).

3:15-4:15 pm: “Historical Trauma as the Legacy of Genocide in American Indian Communities: Complications and Critiques”

Joseph P. Gone, Associate Professor, Clinical Psychology and Native American Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor [Listen to the audio](#)

Moderator: Mary Jane Rein, Executive Director of the Strassler Center, Clark University

<http://gonetowar.com/>

A citizen of the Gros Ventre tribal nation of Montana, Gone examines cultural influences on mental health status, as well as the intersection of evidence-based practice and cultural competence in mental health services through collaborative research partnerships in both reservation and urban American Indian communities. His 50+ articles and chapters explore the cultural psychology of self, identity, personhood, and social relations in indigenous community settings vis-à-vis the mental health professions, with particular attention to therapeutic interventions such as psychotherapy and traditional healing.

4:30-5:30 pm: “So-ver(y)-e(mp)ty in the Space of Abjection: U.S. sovereign immunity, Indigenous Truth-seeking and historical clarification the Shadow of the Wall, Nde narrative, memorialization, and reparation processes, 2007-2015.”

Margo Tamez, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Studies, University of British Columbia [Listen to the audio](#)

Moderator: Jody Emel, Professor, Graduate School of Geography, Clark University

<http://ccgs.ok.ubc.ca/faculty/tamez.html>

Margo Tamez (Nde konitsaaii, Big Water People, Lipan Apache Band of Texas) describes herself as an historian, poet, essayist, traditional knowledge keeper, Indigenous rights defender, and interdisciplinary researcher. Her research closely examines anti-genocidal practices across nineteen generations of Indigenous women *of and from* Nde' Konitsaaii Gokiyaa (Lipan Apache Big Water Peoples' Country).