



Credits: Barbara Asei Dantoni

Indigenous Wisdom and Knowledge – Pathways to Human Flourishing

March 25-27, 2024

WORKSHOP on Community, Water, and Environmental Stewardship at THE NEW INSTITUTE

The objective of this workshop is to create a dynamic space for exploration, learning, and dialogue, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diverse Indigenous cultures and their wealth of traditional knowledge. Participants will engage in discussions, collaborative activities, and experiential learning to grasp the interconnectedness of Indigenous wisdom with sustainable living, community resilience, and holistic well-being. The workshop seeks to bridge cultural gaps, promoting respect for Indigenous perspectives and their unique contributions to human flourishing.

Recognizing and integrating Indigenous knowledge into broader societal frameworks

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Monday | March 25

8:30 – 10:00	Breakfast	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome to THE NEW INSTITUTE	WE 18: The Hall
10:30 – 11:15	On Water, Community, And Environmental Stewardship Chief Justice Yazzie of the Navajo Nation 30 min. speech 15 min. Q&A	WE 18: The Hall
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break	WE 18: Foyer
11:30 – 12:30	Who Are We? Gathering The Circle Of Wisdom Keepers Moderated by Wakanyi Hoffman	WE 18: The Hall
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall
14:00 – 15:30	Stories Of Indigenous Wisdom From The Wisdom Keepers Erika Darics on why/how language matters in storytelling Elders share their stories of “What it means to be a flourishing human being in an inter-connected community of life”.	WE 18: The Hall
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	WE 18: Foyer
15:45 – 17:00	Stories of Origin Story-weaving circles where each wisdom keeper shares a tale central to their community’s philosophy (worldview) and understanding of sustainable human flourishing Break-out group Presentations Q&A	WE 18: The Hall
17:00 – 17:45	Check-out Share reflections from each group	WE 18: The Hall
19:00	Dinner	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall

Tuesday | March 26

8:30 – 10:00	Breakfast	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall
10:00 – 10:30	Check-in from the previous day What themes surfaced from the stories shared	WE 18: The Hall
10:30 – 11:30	The Future of AI in the Context of Ancient Knowledge and Wisdom Victor Koo shares about Tianren culture. Chen Ling presents about the Indigenous AI. 40 min. speeches 20 min. Q&A	WE 18: The Hall
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break	WE 18: Foyer
11:45 – 12:30	The Future of Communities Based on Indigenous Worldviews and Perspectives Moderated by Wakanyi Hoffman	WE 18: The Hall
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall
14:00 – 15:00	Futures of Communities Imagine a post-polycrises world. Each Elder leads a group to design the future community with an indigenous worldview in the center of this community. Break-out group Presentations Q&A	WE 18: The Hall
15:00 – 15:15	Closing reflections	WE 18: The Hall
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break	WE 18: Foyer
16:00 – 19:00	Monastery Tuesday Indigenous knowledge leaders and scholars will discuss scientific and indigenous notions of human flourishing, moderated by Michael Hampe Round table Break-out group Q&A	WE 18: The Hall
19:00	Dinner	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall

Wednesday | March 27

8:30 – 10:00	Breakfast	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall
10:00 – 10:30	Check-in from the previous day Following Erika Darics's talk, discussions on how language shapes storytelling.	WE 18: The Hall
10:30 – 11:00	Water as a Shared Resource Paola Velasco Herrejón	WE 18: The Hall
11:00 – 11:15	Resource Management Ana Rosa de Lima	WE 18: Foyer
11:15 – 12:00	Water and Natural Resources Stewardship Break-out group Presentations Q&A	WE 18: The Hall
12:00 – 12:30	Group reflections: Emerging New Stories	WE 18: The Hall
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall
14:00 – 15:30	Indigenous Spirituality and its Role in Sustainable Environmental Stewardship Joram Tarusarira 60 min. speech & presentation 30 min. Q&A	WE 18: The Hall
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	WE 18: Foyer
15:45 – 16:15	Group reflections: Emerging New Stories	WE 18: The Hall
16:15 – 17:00	Closing Circle of interaction with the Elders Open microphone	WE 18: The Hall
17:00 – 17:30	Closing remarks Andrej Zwitter	WE 18: The Hall
19:00	Dinner	WE 8: TNI Dining Hall

Speakers

Chief Justice Robert Yazzie | Life Comes From It

Robert Yazzie served as Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation from 1992 through 2003 and is now Chief Justice Emeritus. He has a global audience and has frequently visited foreign lands to share his wisdom about traditional indigenous justice and governance.

Victor Koo (via Zoom) | Tianren Culture

Victor Koo co-founded Tianren Culture in 2016, which is a next-generation social platform that acts as a catalyst to foster positive global values and lifestyles.

Erika Darics | University of Groningen

Erika Darics is a critical discourse analyst and applied linguist, currently working at the Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen. She explores how language constitutes our social reality - especially concerning the complex, intangible issues related to our sustainable futures.

Joram Tarusarira | University of Groningen

Joram Tarusarira is Assistant Professor of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding at the Department of Culture and Religious Studies, University of Groningen. His current project is titled 'Invoking the Sacred: Towards Alternative Strategies Against Climate Conflicts'.

Paola Velasco Herrejón | University of Oslo

Paola Velasco Herrejón is a researcher on engagement of Indigenous communities in sustainable energy projects in Mexico and Norway, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oslo.

Ana Rosa de Lima | Meli Bees Network

Ana Rosa de Lima is the Initiator and Director of Meli Bees Network, an impact network that supports Indigenous communities to develop regenerative practices and act towards climate justice.

Michael Hampe | ETH Zurich

Michael Hampe is Full Professor for Philosophy at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences at ETH Zurich.

Chen Ling | Tianren Culture

Executive Director at Tianren Culture

Chief Salaton Ole Ntutu (via video) | Seeds of Wisdom

Salaton Ole Ntutu is the Maasai Cultural Chief and Elder in his African village of Maji Moto. Recognized as a warrior, shaman, and visionary leader of his semi-nomadic tribe, he is often asked to travel with others to protect them.

Attending guests

Kim Langbecker | Seeds of Wisdom

Kim Langbecker is Executive Director of Seeds of Wisdom, the foundation which partners with Indigenous communities and grassroots organizations.

Cheryl Demmert Fairbanks | Life Comes From It

Cheryl Demmert Fairbanks works in the area of Indian law as an attorney and tribal court of appeals justice. Currently she is the Interim Executive Director of the UNM Native American Budget and Policy Institute. Ms. Fairbanks is Tlingit-Tsimshian and was born in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Seth Lennon Nguyen-Weiner | Life Comes From It

Seth Lennon Nguyen-Weiner is Program Director of Life Comes From It, a grantmaking organization focused on Indigenous Peacemaking, Restorative Justice, Transformative Justice and Land-based Projects.

Rainey Enjady | Life Comes From It

Rainey Enjady of the Mescalero Apache Tribe is currently a consultant for Life Comes From It.

Fellows

Andrej Zwitter | THE NEW INSTITUTE

Andrej Zwitter is the Chair of the program Conceptions of Human Flourishing at THE NEW INSTITUTE, and Chair of Governance and Innovation and co-founder of the inter- and transdisciplinary branch Faculty Campus Fryslân at the University of Groningen. His research foci include Big Data ethics, cyber governance, humanitarian action and state of emergency politics.

Wakanyi Hoffman | THE NEW INSTITUTE

Wakanyi Hoffman is the Fellow of the program Conceptions of Human Flourishing at THE NEW INSTITUTE, an author, African Indigenous Knowledge scholar, and global speaker of Ubuntu philosophy. Her diverse intercultural experiences as a global nomad have enriched her perspective on the human condition.

Ariel Hernandez | THE NEW INSTITUTE

Ariel Hernandez the Fellow of the program Conceptions of Human Flourishing at THE NEW INSTITUTE, and a senior researcher in the Managing Global Governance program at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) in Bonn. His research and teaching interests include international negotiations, mediation, transformation to sustainability, environmental justice.

Karma Ura | THE NEW INSTITUTE

Karma Ura is the Fellow of the program Conceptions of Human Flourishing at THE NEW INSTITUTE, and the President of the Centre for Bhutan & GNH Studies (CBS) since 2008. The CBS has been at the forefront in promoting and deepening national and global understanding of Bhutan's home-grown development philosophy of Gross National Happiness and conducting multidisciplinary research about Bhutan.