



# Call for Participants

## Journal Club and Collaborative Research Circle

A deep dive into the tensions, implications, and responsibilities of AI tools and systems in American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities

We invite up to twelve students, community partners and faculty to participate in a summer journal club and collaborative research circle focused on artificial intelligence (AI) tools and systems and their implications for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. This is not a pro-AI or anti-AI space. Instead, this is a process for slowing down, thinking together, and doing a deeper dive into the spectrum of ideas, concerns, perspectives, and worldviews that exist within diverse AIAN communities. As a research practice, our goal is to not simply identify a gap in the literature, but to begin from a place of intellectual responsibility to AIAN communities, including relatives both inside and outside the academy, who are seeking a deeper understanding about AI tools and systems.

### Guiding questions:

- How are AI tools already shaping education, interdisciplinary research, and community life?
- How do different AIAN community members understand AI from different lived experiences, roles, and worldviews?
- What responsibilities do universities, researchers, students, and AI developers have to AIAN communities?
- How can we talk about AI in ways that are not only academic, but also meaningful to our relatives beyond the academy?

### We welcome people interested in:

- Tribal sovereignty, self-determination and technology
- AI and Indigenous communities
- Indigenous data governance
- AI ethics, bias, and accountability
- Protection of Indigenous knowledge
- Responsible and culturally grounded technology use
- Alignment of communities and institutions

### Contact:

- Clarita Lefthand-Begay (lead); Diné, UW's Information School, [clarita@uw.edu](mailto:clarita@uw.edu)
- Oliver J. Bear Don't Walk IV (co-lead) Apsáalooke, UW's Biomedical and Health Informatics, [obdw4@uw.edu](mailto:obdw4@uw.edu)

### Participants will:

- Attend about six summer meetings
- Read selected articles, policy documents, case examples, or community-facing materials
- Academics will present and discuss two self-selected articles
- Contribute short reflections or analytic memos for peer-reviewed manuscript

### Outcomes:

- A peer-reviewed manuscript
- A conference abstract submission
- Relationship building among students, faculty, and community partners
- A deeper understanding of AI-related tensions, responsibilities, and possibilities in AIAN contexts
- Bridging distinct perspectives

### Possible meeting dates in 2026:

June 23, 24, and 25; July 29 and 30; August 3, 5, 6, 11, 18, 19, and 20.

### Interested?

Complete this interest form by June 12, 2026.

<https://forms.gle/9Jhj8Jc51bzu45Ce7>

