

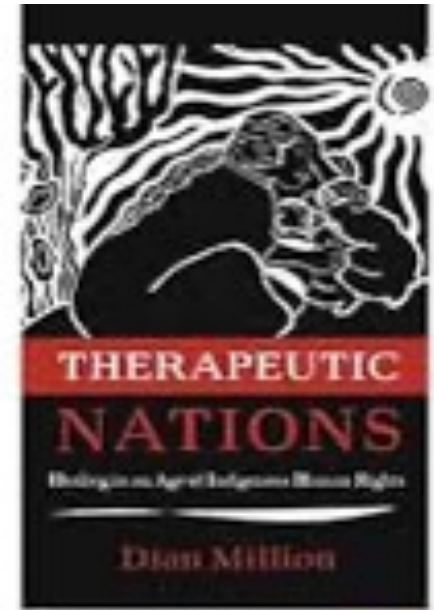
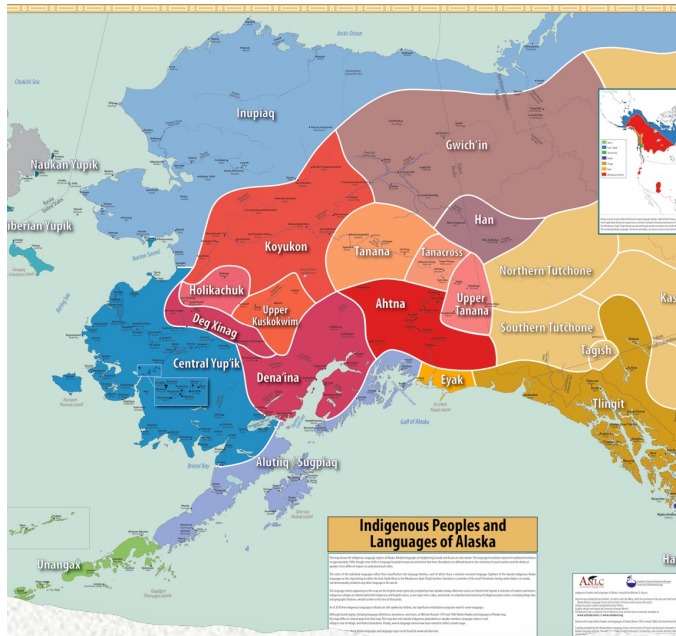
An aerial photograph of a desert landscape. The top portion of the image shows a textured, blue-green area, likely a wetland or a body of water. Below this is a large, smooth, reddish-brown sand dune. The bottom portion of the image shows a flat, light-colored sandy area. The title "Theory: Indigenous Feminism" is overlaid in white text on the dune.

Theory: Indigenous Feminism

Lefthand-Begay, Clarita. Lecture 3. Theory: Indigenous Feminism. Class Lecture. INSC 598 Indigenous Research Methodologies and Methods, University of Washington, April 25, 2024.

Schedule

- Lecture on theory as it applies to IRM.
- Discuss next steps for the literature review.
- Refer to our todo list under Module Week 5. We will emphasize a plan/outline for our community deliverable.
- [Guest speaker: Dr. Million](#)



Dr. Dian Million
(Tanana Athabascan)

- Associate Professor in American Indian Studies at the University of Washington

Luana Ross Associate Professor Emerita of Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies and Co-Director, Native Voices.

Dr. Luana Ross

- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, located at Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana
- Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Oregon, and has been a professor at the University of California at Davis and UC Berkeley.

A Century of Genocide in the Americas: The Residential School Experience, White Shamans and Plastic Medicine:

see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19JAMhAzXms>

The Place of the Falling Waters.

see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tq6_UoLVErw




From the “F” Word to Indigenous/Feminisms

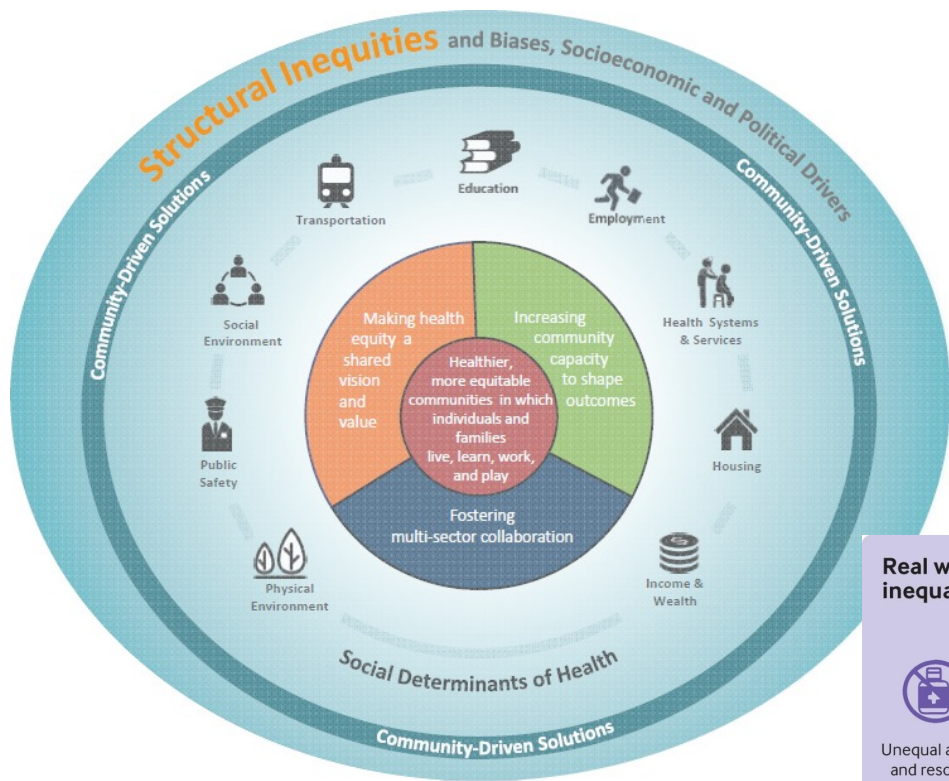
Luana Ross

Wicazo Sa Review, Volume 24, Number 2, Fall 2009, pp. 39-52 (Article)

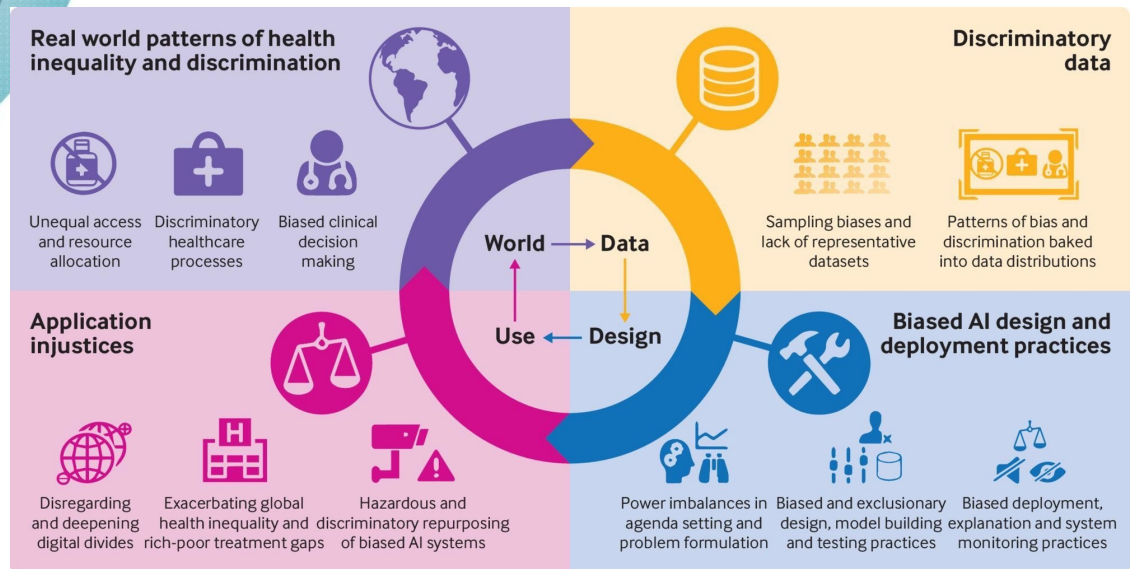
- Beatrice Medicine (Lakota)
- Kate Shanley (Assiniboine)
- Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna)
- Opal Swaney Cajune (mother of L. Ross)



When we consider feminist research, what research paradigm, or paradigms, might we be drawing from?



A critical eye on **power, injustice, and inequality**



Variation in Theory Use in Qualitative Research

- Qualitative theoretical perspectives
 - Feminist perspective
 - Racialized discourse
 - Critical theory
 - Queer theory
 - Disability inquiry

...And the list goes, on and on!

Indigenous Feminism...

- Acknowledges the **tension between feminists of color and Euroamerican feminists**
 - ...in doing so, it notes the absence of Indigenous women's long-standing struggles and work in mainstream feminist scenarios.
- "It also uniquely encourage us to question the ways in which therapeutic logics—particularly when articulated to ideas about Indigenous culture, tradition, and sacredness—**might actually reproduce liberalism, settler colonialism, and heteropatriarchy** rather than dismantle and transcend the violence of these structures of power." — Baldy & Yazzie, 2018

Indigenous Feminism...

What did it mean? Sitting over tea, after several days of listening to presentations, she told me, 'I think I know what it means now. **It's just kinship.** And maybe that's another word for it: Kinship'. -- Anderson, K, 2022

...it's an intergenerational processes to transfer knowledge and honor the kinship and relationships of Indigenous peoples...

Indigenous Feminism . . .

- Feminism, the word excludes Indigenous perspectives on gender and sexuality.
- The normative binary of man & woman that arose in Western discourse was not compatible with the multiple constructions of gender found in Indigenous communities.
 - Western notions of gender and sexuality are disrupted by Indigenous feminist methods, as shown in Paula Gunn Allen's book *The Sacred Hoop*, which reconciles traditional tribal definitions of women with non-Indigenous definitions.
- The relationships in Indigenous communities seeks to serve the well-being of the community rather than solely between men and women.
 - An Indigenous feminist analytic includes accounting for gender and sexuality in addition to race.
- Colonial policies propagated gender and heteronormative violence to enforce a dominant understanding of gender and sexuality. And Native peoples who are 2SLGBTQ+ become targets of violence.

Indigenous Feminism...

It considers the role of feminist methodology in dealing effectively with racism, inequality, power, self-determination and Tribal Sovereignty.

So that new questions, methodologies, and methods can emerge that challenge societal structures that perpetuate injustices. Utilizing Indigenous values and histories, Indigenous women have redefined commonly held notions of feminism to create anti-colonial tactics and assert self-determination efforts to benefit all.

FEMINIST THEORY

from margin to center



bell hooks

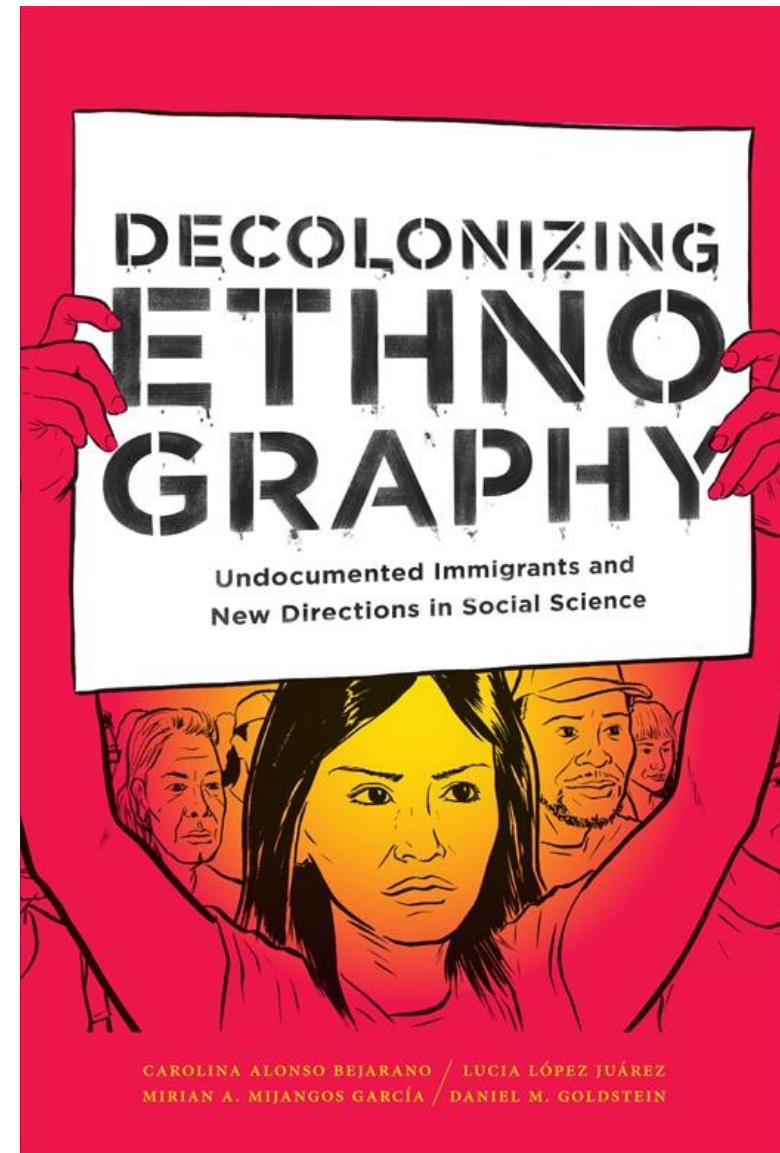
Feminist Perspective In-depth interviews

- The logic of qualitative research is concerned with in-depth understanding and usually involves working with *small samples*.
- The goal is to look at a “process” or the “meanings” individuals attribute to their given social situation, not necessarily to make generalizations.
- For example, we investigate women's attitudes toward their bodies not to make overall generalizations about *how many* women have problems with their body image, but to understand how women *experience* being overweight, for example, in a thin culture.
- Here we would be interested in the process by which women do or do not cope with their body image and the ways in which they interact with cultural messages of thinness from the media and significant others in their lives.

Decolonial theory

Decolonial theory represents an effort to examine and challenge the many ways in which colonial experience is embedded, not just in people's everyday lives, but in scholarly efforts to understand those lives and to write about them.

Source: Alonso Bejarano, López Juárez, L., Mijangos García, M. A., & Goldstein, D. M. (2019). Decolonizing Ethnography. Duke University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1215/9781478004547>



The legacy of boarding schools was a process of creating patriarchal homes and reordering kinship.

Beginning with the Indian Civilization Act of 1819 and running through the 1960s, the United States enacted laws and implemented policies establishing and supporting Indian boarding schools across the Nation. During that time, the purpose of Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate Indigenous children by forcibly relocating them from their families and communities to distant residential facilities where their American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian identities, languages, and beliefs were to be forcibly suppressed. — Deb Haaland

“I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won’t undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we’re all proud to embrace.” — Secretary Deb Haaland

Haaland brings to the position her **opposition** to further explorations for oil and gas on public lands, as well as an opposition to fracking, **the process of extracting natural gas through fracturing rock with hydraulic pressure**. Republicans have **called her “radical”** and say her opposition to the expansion of fossil fuels **disqualifies her from overseeing an agency** that, as *Washington Post* columnist Darryl Fears **puts it**, “traditionally promoted those values.”

Secretary of the Interior First: Deb Haaland, Member of the Pueblo of Laguna

“I’ll be fierce for all of us, our planet, and all of our protected land.”

BY HEATHER COX RICHARDSON | MARCH 16, 2021 |





Questions?!?!?

