



THE INSTITUTE FOR  
**AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES**  
*museum & research center*

38 Curtis Road

Washington, CT 06790

## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American-Archaeology Round Table Conference**

### ***The Benefits of Multiple Perspectives for Interpreting Our Local Histories and Cultural Heritage: Decolonizing New England Archaeology and Museum Studies***

**Saturday, October 27, 2018**

**8:00 am-5:15pm**

#### *Abstract*

“Colonialism” has been defined as when one nation seizes control of another nation’s natural resources & peoples for profit. An extreme form is “settler colonialism”, in which the invading nation attempts to permanently settle the territory by eliminating the native population & erasing its culture.<sup>1</sup> In recent years, several researchers have branded the colonization of New England colonialism as settler colonialism.<sup>2</sup> “Decolonization” is the act of undoing the effects of colonization. It includes removing the cultural biases of the dominant colonial culture from historical interpretations to allow a more accurate presentation of a country’s past & present history & heritage. Recently, the decolonization movement has begun to remove the confines of colonial histories in the study of indigenous & other once “marginalized peoples”. Acts like NAGPRA along with efforts to involve members from these communities in all aspects of historical study & programming have created new, more accurate interpretations that utilize archaeology, oral tradition, & written documentation to correctly incorporate indigenous, captive, & emigrant lifeways & thought into the larger history of the Americas. Papers presented in this conference express efforts by museum professionals, archaeologists, historians, & indigenous leadership to decolonize archaeological, historical, & museum studies in the 21st Century. **Conference Organizers: Dr. Lucianne Lavin (IAIS) & Paul Wegner (IAIS).**

<sup>1</sup> Patrick Wolfe, 2006, “Settler Colonialism & the Elimination of the Native”, *Journal of Genocide Research* 8(4): 387-409; Danielle N. Bennett “Decolonizing Museum Session at NEMA”, November 19, 2017, web site entitled *Museum Studies at Tufts University*, <http://sites.tufts.edu/museumstudents/2017/11/19/decolonizing-museums-session-at-nema/>.

<sup>2</sup> Amy Den Ouden, 2005, *Beyond Conquest: Native Peoples & the Struggle for History in New England*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln; Jean M. O’Brien, 2010, *Firsting & Lasting: Writing Indians Out of Existence in New England*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis; J. Kehaulani Kauanui, 2017, “Challenging Settler Colonialism in the Recovery of Wangunk Tribal History”, *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* 79:37-40.

- **This event will take place at the Shepaug Valley High School, located at 159 South Street, Washington, CT. For more details, visit our website at [www.iaismuseum.org](http://www.iaismuseum.org).**
- **Refreshments will be served. PUBLIC WELCOME!**
- **Admission is \$10 at the door, which includes admission to the IAIS museum.**
- **[Please PRE-REGISTER by calling the museum \(860-868-0518\) or go onto our web site \(iaismuseum.org\) to ensure seating!](http://www.iaismuseum.org)**

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 8:00-9:20**     **Registration & Refreshments**
- 9:20-9:30**     **Dr. Lucianne Lavin (Institute for American Indian Studies)**  
*“Welcome & Introduction”*
- 9:30-10:00**   **Paul Wegner & Colleen Swift (Institute for American Indian Studies)**  
*“The People Who Were Here Before Us: Inclusion, Interpretation, & the Formation of IAIS”*
- 10:00-10:30**   **Dr. J. Kehaulani Kauanui (Wesleyan University)**  
*“Decolonization in Settler Colonial Context”*
- 10:30-10:45**   **Break**
- 10:45-11:15**   **Vera Longtoe Sheehan (Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian)**  
*“Decolonizing N'Dakinna”*
- 11:15-11:45**   **Loren Spears (Tomaquag Museum)**  
*“Decolonizing Museums”*
- 11:45-12:15**   **Elizabeth J. Normen (Connecticut Explored)**  
  
*“What Are We Teaching Our Kids? The Benefits of Multiple Perspectives in Teaching History”*
- 12:15-2:00**     **Lunch (*On your own*)**
- 2:00-2:30**     **Chris Newell (Mashantucket Pequot Museum)**  
*“Re-Indigenizing History”*
- 2:30-3:00**     **Rolf Cachat-Schilling (Massachusetts Ethical Archaeology)**  
*“Trauma, Decolonization, Psyche & Policy”*
- 3:00-3:30**     **Dr. Margaret Bruchac (University of Pennsylvania)**  
*“Reconsidering (& Recovering from) Acts of Ethnographic Search & Rescue”*
- 3:30-3:45**     **Break**
- 3:45-4:15**     **Summer Sutton (Yale University)**  
*“Seasons of Change: Mediating the Yale Peabody’s Connecticut Native American Exhibition”*
- 4:15-4:45**     **Dr. Katherine Hermes (Central Connecticut State University)**  
*“Decolonizing the Dead, 1607-2018”*
- 4:45-5:15**     **Dr. Jason Mancini (Connecticut Humanities)**  
*“Discussant”*