

A CROSS-SCHOOL DIALOGUE ON INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Description of the Topic: Building on the momentum of the *Indigenous Rights and Environmental Justice Symposium: From Standing Rock to St. Louis* (<https://buder.wustl.edu/Events/Pages/Indigenous%20Rights%20and%20Environmental%20Justice%20Symposium.aspx>) we propose a cross-school interdisciplinary gathering to continue our discussion of ideas, which will transfer into classrooms throughout Washington University and University College. We will gather interested faculty, beginning with the list below, to discuss teaching strategies and learning outcomes, with the goal of developing and implementing these activities to WUSTL students across various disciplines and programs.

Why the topic is important and appropriate: College campuses and classrooms should be spaces where important, real-world, real-time topics are discussed and deliberated. The UN's declarations on the rights of Indigenous Peoples indicates that the harms caused by historical injustices call for the urgent need to respect and protect the rights of Indigenous People. Protecting the rights of the First people of this nation is critical in our effort to protect the rights of all people who struggle under oppression. It is vital that faculty and leaders at WUSTL create a platform where these issues can be brought into the forefront of our academic discussions and classrooms. Especially now, our nation's scholars and future leaders will be challenged to speak truth, using empirically supported facts. Providing WUSTL students with historical facts regarding Indigenous rights and social and economic justices will best prepare them to mobilize their knowledge and skills throughout all of our nation's communities. While this issue has been discussed in Indigenous societies, it is important and appropriate to bring this concern to non-Indigenous groups in multiple disciplines, making our campus an ideal space. Using knowledge as a powerful resource, non-Indigenous partners can bring sensitivity and cultural awareness to their disciplines, no doubt leading to innovative ways to challenge those within our system and beyond to return lost power to our Indigenous brother and sisters. Working together on this important issue will ensure greatest reach and maximum impact.

List of faculty and their affiliation:

David Patterson (Social Work) – Proposing Faculty, Director of Research, Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies

Molly Tovar (Social Work) – Proposing Faculty, Director, Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies

John Kelly (Anthropology)

Bret Gustafson (Anthropology)

Gayle Fritz (Anthropology)

Robert Criss (Earth and planetary sciences)

Jesse Vogler (Architecture)

Steven Gunn (Law)

Mark Rollins (University College)

Preferred style of gathering: Breakfast or Lunch