

ABSTRACT

This dissertation interrogates the globalization and global and national film discourses to look closely at how political identity (Indigeneity) and geographical location (deterritorialization) affect how Indigenous representation is treated. Secwepemc-Syilx/Indigenous systems of knowledge in the interior plateau region of British Columbia are used as an exemplar for developing a localized theory for creating visually sovereign narratives for Fourth World Cinema in terms of the self-representation of Indigenous visual storytellers/ filmmakers and their contemporary visual production practices. This culturally specific ontology formulates a place-based identity, specific to Secwepemc-Syilx territories. To delve further into how culture informs production practices, the cultural congruency of Indigenous visual storytelling styles, film elements, and aesthetics are analyzed.

An Indigenous Inquiry process that utilizes Indigenous methods is coupled with an interdisciplinary critical qualitative methodology for this study. Indigenous and Euro-Western systems of knowledge(s) are juxtaposed to put forward the philosophical differences that affect Indigenous territories, cultural stories, and cultural protocols. Archibald's (2008) seven Indigenous storywork principles of respect, responsibility, reciprocity, reverence, holism, interrelatedness, and synergy are set alongside the shared conversations of the diverse group of thirteen Indigenous knowledge keepers to illustrate commonalities in these principles within the shared Indigenous worldviews.

Another layer of investigation documents a peer-to-peer discussion between the researcher who is a visual storyteller/filmmaker with a diverse group of seventeen Indigenous filmmakers who shared stories and conversations from their film production experiences in the field. This shared information is then examined within the context of transnational, intercultural and national film discourses.

In this research, the most significant contribution to Indigenous film theory is the intervention in the globalization and global film discourses, which clarifies a land/place-based Indigenous identity, specifically related to a territory. The researcher adds to and expands the discussion of Indigenous aesthetics and how that relates to what visual sovereignty is by developing the concept of cultural congruency and what that means to artists and filmmakers. Further, Archibald's Indigenous storywork process is extended to an Indigenous visual storywork process. The entire dissertation contributes to the study of Indigenous methodologies as it privileges and uses Indigenous systems of knowledge(s).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Splatsin Community, Secwepemc-Syilx Nations, Interior Plateau of B.C.

Academic Studies: B.A. University of Toronto, 1999
M.A. Simon Fraser University, 2010

GRADUATE STUDIES

| Courses | | Instructors |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| EDST699 | | |
| CCFI 601B | Indigenous Resistance Respect and Renewal | Dr. Peter Cole |
| EDST 591 | Indigenous Epistemology and Curriculum | Dr. Jo-ann Archibald |
| EDST 508B | Review of Research in Educational Studies: Researching With Indigenous Peoples | Dr. Peter Cole |
| EDST 601B | Second Year Doctoral Seminar in Advanced Methodologies in Education | Dr. Jennifer Chan |
| EDST 602 | Third Year PhD Seminar – Developing Research Agendas, Research Methods & Research Proposal | Dr. Shauna Butterwick |
| EDST 601A | First Year Doctoral Seminar: Critical Social Theory | Dr. Claudia Ruitenber |

AWARDS

National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund
Verna J. Kirkness Award
Irving K Barber Scholarship Society
Gina Blondin Award, UBC Faculty of Graduate Studies
Indspire: Indigenous Education – Canada's Future (formerly National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation)
Aboriginal PhD Scholarship, Faculty of Education/Indigenous Education
Aboriginal Graduate Fellowship, not redeemed
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Award
UBC Graduate Scholarship – Aboriginal PhD Entrance Scholarship
Dept. of Educational Studies, UBC
Doctoral Scholarship, New Relationship Trust

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Christian, D. & Wong, R. (Eds.) (2017). *downstream: reimagining water*. Canada. Wilfred Laurier University Press

Christian, D. & Wong, R. (2013). "Unmapping Watershed Mind" (pp. 232-253) In *Thinking With Water*. C. Chen, J. MacLeod, A. Neimanis (Eds.). Canada. McGill-Queens University Press.

Christian, D. (2011) "Reconciling With the People and the Land" (pp. 69-80) In *Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity*. A. Mathur, J. Dewar, M. DeGagné (Eds.). Ottawa. Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Volume 3.

Christian, D. & Freeman, V. (2010). "History of a Friendship" (pp. 376-390) In *Alliances: Re/Envisioning Indigenous and non-Indigenous Relationships*. Lynne Davis (Ed). Canada. University of Toronto Press.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

May 2014 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education – Presenter "The Visual Sovereignty of Fourth World Cinema & Indigenous Pedagogy" – Honolulu, Hawaii

March 2014 Presenter at Cultural Protocols National Forum, Panel - Creators: Navigating Protocols as an Artist, "What Horse Did You Ride in on? First Nations Cultural Council hosted at Enow'kin Centre, Penticton, B.C.

March 2013 – Presenter at Visioning the Future: Indigenous Self-determination and Sovereignty. 11th Annual Indigenous Graduate Student Symposium (IGSS). (Re)framing an Indigenous Lens: Considering the Visual and the Arts in/as Self-Determination. "The Visual Sovereignty of Fourth World Cinema & Public Pedagogy". UBC Vancouver.

Jan 2013 Presenter - Conference for World Equilibrium, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Jose Marti Project of World Solidarity), Havana, Cuba. "The Visual Sovereignty of Fourth World Cinema & Public Pedagogy"

June 2013 40th Anniversary of School of Communications, Simon Fraser University. Round table, "Researching Empire, Race and Colonialism: the Margins or the Centre of Communications Studies?"

Mar 26, 2012 - "Becoming Good Relatives – Connecting Land/Spirit/ Heart Learning to the Outcomes of Mind Learning Practices". Hands Back, Hands Forward: Sharing Service Learning Projects for the Aboriginal Focus School. Presentation to Vancouver School Board, First Nations House of Learning, UBC

April 2012 - A Thorn in the Side of Feminism: Interventions to Challenge Complacency – Panel: Negotiating Indigenous Feminisms: "Shut up and Paddle: An Embodied Decolonized Pedagogy. RAGA Centre, University of British Columbia



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
For the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(Educational Studies)

DOROTHY CHRISTIAN

B.A. University of Toronto, 1999
M.A. Simon Fraser University, 2010

Thursday, March 30th, 2017 at 1:00 pm
Sty-Wet-Tan Hall, First Nations House of Learning
Latecomers will not be admitted

"Gathering Knowledge: Indigenous Methodologies of Land/Place-Based Visual Storytelling/Filmmaking & Visual Sovereignty"

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair:

Dr. Tai Lin Smith (Art History)

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, Research Supervisor (Educational Studies)

Dr. Sheryl Lightfoot, (Political Science)

Dr. Rita Deverell (Women's Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University)

University Examiners:

Dr. Michael Marker (Educational Studies)

Dr. Charles Menzies (Anthropology)

External Examiner:

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