

# NAIS RESEARCH NOW FALL 2019

Thursdays from 10:30am-11:50am @ Mondavi Jackson Hall

All presentations are open to public and free of charge



9/26

**Dr. Jessica Bissett Perea**  
(Dena'ina)

Series Coordinator, Assistant Professor,  
Native American Studies at UC Davis

## "Introductions to Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS)"

NAS 001 engages eight core concepts introduced in *Native Studies Keywords* (2015) – **land, Indigeneity, blood, sovereignty, tradition, colonialism, nation, & knowledges** – as frameworks to better understand a range of historic and contemporary NAIS research conducted *with by and for* Native American and Indigenous peoples, and the significance of UC Davis's approach to the density of Indigeneity in California, throughout the Americas, and across the Pacific.



10/3

**Dr. Loren Michael Mortimer**

Alumni, Designated Emphasis in NAS  
Lecturer, History Department at UC Davis

## "You are on P'atwin Land"

UC Davis's Native American Contemplative Garden is a unique space: it recognizes how the campus occupies unceded P'atwin land and acknowledges legacies of colonial genocide, while also providing a sanctuary for healing, reflection, and decolonial pedagogy. This talk combines a brief introduction to the faculty- and student-led initiative to construct the Garden, the potential of digital platforms to (re)map colonized landscapes, and a reflective dialogue within the Garden.



10/10

**Dr. Liza Grandia**

Director, Indigenous Research Center of  
the Americas (IRCA); Associate Professor,  
NAS at UC Davis

## "Chocolate Forests: The Autonomous Indigenous Peasant Communities of Petén"

There is an abundant literature on the tropical "d's"—deforestation, degradation, and destruction—with very little attention to the "r's"—recovery, regeneration, and reforestation. With state-governed parks ravaged by wildfires, poachers, and narco-traffickers, and their own communities splintered by land grabs and other political challenges, an indigenous peasant movement in Guatemala is building a more inclusive vision of conservation, from the grassroots. Grandia will describe the Q'eqchi' vision to reclaim sacred lands and reforest them with spiritually-important species for climate resiliency.



10/17

**Dr. John-Carlos Perea**  
(Mescalero Apache)

Grammy Award winning multi-instrumentalist/  
powwow singer/ composer/ improviser  
Associate Professor, American Indian  
Studies at San Francisco State University

## "Resounding 'Witchi Tai To' (1969-2019)"

A Lecture-Demonstration Commemorating Creek/Kaw Jazz Saxophonist Jim Pepper



**FEATURING: Masaru Koga**  
New York-based Japanese  
multi-instrumentalist/ composer/  
improviser  
[www.maskoga.com](http://www.maskoga.com)



**and Karl Evangelista**  
Oakland-based Filipino-  
American guitarist/  
composer/ improviser  
[www.karlevangelista.com](http://www.karlevangelista.com)

Sponsored by the North Pacific Studies Lab



10/24

**Dr. Renee Pualani Louis**  
(Kanaka Hawai'i)

Affiliate Researcher, Institute of Policy and  
Social Research at the University of Kansas

## "Maunakea: Protecting the Sacred"

A Kanaka Hawai'i cartographic perspective on the facts that led to the standoff, the current situation, and future possibilities.

Co-sponsored by NAS, Asian American Studies, and the North Pacific Studies Lab



10/31

**Dr. Inés Hernández-Ávila**  
(Nez Perce/Tejana)

Co-founder of the Native American and  
Indigenous Studies Association;  
Professor, NAS at UC Davis

## "The Hemispheric Approach of Native American Studies at UC Davis: A Personal Journey"

This talk represents highlights of my career as a publicly engaged scholar and artist, and in particular my focus on the relationship between creativity, autonomy, spirit, and social justice.



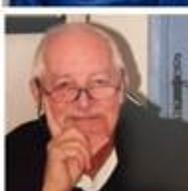
11/7

**Dr. Beth Rose Middleton**

Yocha Dehe Endowed Chair in California  
Indian Studies; Department Chair and  
Associate Professor, NAS at UC Davis

## "Returning the Homelands: Successes in Indigenous Land Repatriation/Rematriation"

Indigenous peoples in California are seeing lands returned to them through a variety of legal/political processes. This talk will focus on creative use of conservation mechanisms to support the return of Indigenous homelands to Indigenous peoples.



11/14

**Dr. Stefano Varese**

Founder and former director of the  
Indigenous Research Center of the Americas;  
Professor Emeritus, NAS at UC Davis

## "From Ethnographer to Activist: Environmental and Cultural Rights of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples"

I was trained in the late 1960s as ethnographer, however, when I went to "study" the Asháninka of the Peruvian Amazon I was re-trained by them as an activist in the defense of their territory, their environment, and their deeply spiritual understanding of their *cosmos*. The poverty of my Western modern materialistic approach became the symbol of the intellectual and emotional challenge that has accompanied me throughout my career as an anthropologist trying to understand other peoples.



11/21

**Dr. Zoila Mendoza**

Chair, Designated Emphasis in NAS;  
Professor, NAS at UC Davis

## "Quechua Today: The Struggle to Keep Alive the Largest Native American Language"

Lima, the coastal capital of Peru, has become the place with the largest Quechua-speaking population in the world. This research addresses new efforts to revitalize Quechua through music, dance, festivals, and the media, especially in relation to Peru's recent civil war (1980-2000) and a consequent massive relocation of internal refugees to Lima.