

The Canadian Studies Program  
UC Berkeley

***Aboriginal Self-Governance in North America***

Saturday, April 28, 2012

The Gifford Room, 221 Kroeber Hall (Bancroft Way at College Avenue)

**Participant Bios**

**Michael Behiels**, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is a Professor of Canadian Political and Constitutional History at the University of Ottawa. He is a writer, commentator, and consultant on contemporary Canadian political, ideological, and constitutional developments. His teaching, research, and consulting encompass the history of Canada and Quebec since 1867, Canadian historiography, Francophone/Anglophone relations, Francophone and Anglophone minority community language rights, Canadian federalism, Aboriginal rights, and constitutional developments since the 1960s, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

He has authored, edited, and co-edited several books: *Contemporary Quebec: Selected Readings and Commentaries* (MQUP 2011); *Transnationalism: Canada–United States History into the Twenty-First Century* (MQUP 2010); the seminal *La Francophonie canadienne, renouveau constitutionnel et gouvernance scolaire* (University of Ottawa Press 2005); *Canada's Francophone Minority Communities, Constitutional Renewal and the Winning of School Governance* (MQUP 2004); *Quebec Since 1800: Selected Readings* (Irwin, 2002); *Nation, Ideas, Identities: Essays in Honour of Ramsay Cook* (OUP 2000); *The Meech Lake Primer: Conflicting Views of the 1987 Constitutional Accord* (University of Ottawa Press 1989); and *Prelude to Quebec's Quiet Revolution: Liberalism versus Neo-Nationalism, 1945–1960* (MQUP 1985 and 2011).

As well, he has penned countless chapters in books, periodical articles, technical reports, review essays, reviews, and journalism pieces. He has given talks and presentations throughout Canada, the United States, and the globe. He is currently researching the “Origins, Framing and Adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1960–1982.”

**Alexis Celeste Buntén** is the Project Ethnographer for IPinCH (Intellectual Property in Cultural Heritage) housed at Simon Fraser University, and a Senior Researcher for the FrameWorks Institute, a think tank that carries out communications research for framing the public discourse about social issues. Dr. Buntén received a B.A. in art history at Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology at UCLA. She was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at UC Berkeley 2006–2008 under the mentorship of Dr. Nelson Graburn, where she expanded upon research looking into processes of cultural commoditization and expression of indigenous identities through tourism, media, and performing “the Other” in response to global patterns of consumption. In addition to her scholarly endeavors, Dr. Buntén has contracted for numerous Indigenous heritage and tourism organizations. Dr. Buntén's areas of expertise include the

heritage industry, cultural production and consumption, interpretation, cross-cultural communication, community development, tourism, and the anthropology of work. She has published in *American Ethnologist* and *American Indian Quarterly*, and contributed chapters in the volumes *Exploring World Art* (Waveland Press) and *Great Expectations: Imagination, Anticipation and Enchantment in Tourism* (Berghann Books). Her book "So, how long have you been native?" *A Season Working as an Alaskan Tour Guide* (University of Nebraska Press) is forthcoming.

**Gordon Christie** has an A.B. from Princeton University, an LL.B. from the University of Victoria, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has taught in universities in Canada and the United States, in Faculties of Law, and Departments of Philosophy and Indigenous Studies. Before joining the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia (in 2004) he was an Assistant Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School (York University), where he also acted as Director of the Intensive Program in Aboriginal Lands, Resources and Governments. He is Inuvialuit/Inupiat.

**Charlotte Coté** is Associate Professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is a member of the Tseshaht/Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations on the west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada. Dr. Coté has a B.A. in Political Science from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B.C., and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Her publications, teaching, and research interests examine indigenous politics and governance, federal Indian law and policy, treaty and whaling rights, First Nations and indigenous films/filmmaking, and indigenous food sovereignty. In 2010 she published her first book, *Spirits of Our Whaling Ancestors: Revitalizing Makah and Nuu-chah-nulth Traditions*. Dr. Coté is currently conducting research for her next book, which will explore indigenous food sovereignty issues.

Dr. Coté serves as Chair of the University of Washington's wəʔəbʔaltx<sup>w</sup> Intellectual House Advisory Committee, a project coordinated by Dr. Coté and other Native American faculty, staff and students, to build a coastal longhouse-style facility on UW's Seattle campus.

**Teresa Edwards** is a Mi'kmaq woman, a member of the Listuguj First Nation, and the mother of three wonderful children. Her traditional name is Young Fire Woman. She has worked for more than twenty years to advance the needs and rights of Aboriginal peoples, with a particular focus on addressing Aboriginal women's human rights. As a Barrister-at-Law in Ontario, Teresa has worked to identify solutions leading to economic security and prosperity for Aboriginal women, while promoting their safety and well-being, and to increase their participation in leadership, governance and decision-making roles.

As a member of Status of Women Canada (SWC), Teresa worked with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) to secure funding for the Sisters In Spirit initiative, a research, education, and policy initiative aimed at raising public awareness about the growing number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. Working with SWC, and as a Consultant and Legal Counsel representing Aboriginal organizations and governments, Teresa organized the *FPT Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Families and Communities*, and was part of the Planning Committee for the two National Aboriginal

Women's Summits held in Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Northwest Territories. She currently serves as Director of International Affairs and Human Rights, and as internal Legal Counsel for the NWAC. Teresa has partnered with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Museum of Civilization to host a Symposium on Aboriginal Human Rights on International Human Rights Day, and co-hosted with the Assembly of First Nations the Sub-Regional Meeting of Indigenous Peoples from North America. She continues to advocate for the rights of Indigenous women at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and works with UN Special Rapporteurs to advance Indigenous human rights generally, and to advance Aboriginal women's rights.

**Nelson Graburn** was educated in classics and natural sciences, before earning his BA in Social Anthropology at Cambridge in 1958. He attended McGill University and spent five months of 1959 working with Hudson Strait Inuit for the Department of Northern Affairs, leading to his MA in 1960. After three more months' fieldwork in Baffin Island in summer 1960 he attended the University of Chicago, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1963. This was followed by a year of research on Inuit–Naskapi interethnic relations. He has taught at UC Berkeley for 48 years, serving as Curator of North America in the Hearst Museum of Anthropology since 1972, and co-chair of the Canadian Studies Program since 1986. He became Thomas Garden Barnes Endowed Chair in the Canadian Studies Program in 2005.

He has also held visiting positions in England, France, Canada, Brazil, Japan, and China. In 2006 he received the Distinguished Graduate Mentorship Award from UC Berkeley.

He has returned to the Canadian Arctic (and Greenland and Alaska) for research in more than twenty communities and has carried out research in Japan since 1974 and China since 1991. He has published more than twenty books and 250 articles on kinship, social change, art and identity, tourism and heritage, and the repatriation of anthropological materials.

**Minnie Grey** has worked actively throughout her career to improve the quality of life in northern Canada.

Born in Kangirsuk, Nunavik, she served as third vice-president of the Makivik Corporation, the official organization representing the Inuit of Nunavik, where she focused on self-government and community and economic development.

After leaving Makivik, Ms. Grey became Vice-President of the Canada office of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) for six years. She also chaired the Nunavik Education Task Force. From 1991 to 2000, she was the Executive Director for the Ungava Hospital and Chairperson of the Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee.

From 2000 to 2002 Ms. Grey served as Executive Director of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, and was appointed to the Inuit Governing Committee under the National Aboriginal Health Organization. She led the implementation of the Tapiriilirniq process, an initiative by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health to address the issue of suicide, and from 2003 to 2005 was a member of the Institute of Aboriginal Health within the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She is a former member of the Canadian Council of Learning and

of a United Nations Advisory Group to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Board of Nasivvik (a centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environment) under Laval University.

She is on the Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee for ICC. Since 2002 she was lead negotiator for the work on the creation of a Nunavik self-government. She is presently Chair for the Nunavik Regional Partnership Committee to address social issues and is responsible for other files under the President of Makivik Corporation.

She is a National Aboriginal Achievement Award Recipient for 2012 in the Public Service Category.

**Michelle L. Hale** is Navajo, Laguna, Chippewa, and Ottawa from Oak Springs, Arizona on the Navajo Nation. She is a lecturer for the American Indian Studies (AIS) program at Arizona State University in Tempe and will be joining the faculty as Assistant Professor in the fall of 2012. She will complete a doctorate degree in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona in May 2012. Her dissertation, entitled “Devolution and the Navajo Nation: Three Strategies for Local Empowerment in the *Diné* Communities of Shonto, Kayenta, and Tohajiilee,” is an examination of community-driven efforts to facilitate governmental reform and political empowerment in local government. Ms. Hale has a strong interest in issues of tribal government, policymaking, and leadership. With reform and change happening at Navajo since 1989, Michelle intends to focus her scholarship on issues of central–local tension in Navajo government and efforts made to decentralize powers and authorities of chapter government to grant greater say in local issues. This presents an opportunity to examine and explore what decentralized authority means for the whole of Navajo leadership and citizen participation in tribal government.

**Roy Michael Huhndorf** (Yup'ik) was born in Nulato, Alaska, a native village on the Yukon River in Interior Alaska. He is married, with two grown daughters. Mr. Huhndorf received a BBA from the University of Alaska with an emphasis in finance and management, and completed Stanford University's Executive Program for Small Businesses. He served on the University of Alaska's Board of Regents for eight years, two of those as Chairman, and received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the University in 1993. He has served on the board of the Institute of American Indian Arts under a presidential appointment, and as a Board Member and Chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives. He is the founder of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Southcentral Foundation, the Alaska Native Justice Center, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, and Koahnic Broadcasting Corporation.

Currently owner of R. M. Huhndorf & Company, Mr. Huhndorf served for twenty years as President and CEO, and later as Chairman, of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., one of the thirteen companies created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. He has also served as Chief Administrative Officer for the Indian Health Service Community Health Aide Program.

**Shari Huhndorf** (Yup'ik) is Professor of Native American Studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at UC Berkeley. She is the author of two books: *Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination* (Cornell UP, 2001), and *Mapping the Americas: The Transnational Politics of Contemporary Native Culture* (Cornell UP, 2009), and a co-editor of *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture* (UBC Press, 2010), winner of the Canadian

Women's Studies Association prize for Outstanding Scholarship. Another co-edited work, *Sovereignty, Indigeneity, and the Law*, a special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly*, recently won the award for best special issue from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. She is currently at work on a manuscript tentatively entitled "Indigeneity and the Politics of Space: The Gendered Geographies of Native Women's Culture."

**J.R. (Jim) Miller** is the Canada Research Chair in Native–newcomer Relations and a Professor of History at the University of Saskatchewan. His research and teaching deal with the history of relations over the past four centuries between indigenous and immigrant peoples in Canada. His particular focus is on policy issues, especially policies of the federal government and Christian churches directed at Aboriginal peoples, especially First Nations, and the indigenous peoples' responses to such policies. His nine books include works on the general history of Native–newcomer relations (*Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens: A History of Indian–White Relations in Canada* 1989; 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2000); the history of residential schools (*Shingwauk's Vision: A History of Native Residential Schools*, 1996), and the history of treaty-making (*Compact, Contract, Covenant: Aboriginal Treaty-Making in Canada*, 2009). His current research project is on reconciliation with and for Residential School Survivors. Miller's publications and public presentations have earned many prizes and other forms of recognition. For example, *Shingwauk's Vision* was the 1997 recipient of the J.W. Dafoe Prize for the best book that explains a public policy issue. He served as President of the Canadian Historical Association in 1996–97, was appointed to the governing board of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in 1998 for a six-year term, and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1998. In 2010, the SSHRC awarded him its Gold Medal for Achievement in Research.

**Beth Piatote** is an Assistant Professor in Native American Studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at UC Berkeley. She is a member of the Nez Perce tribe. She received her B.A. in History and German from Bethel College, an M.A. in International Studies from the University of Oregon, and a Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University. Her research focuses on Native American literature, history, law, and culture; Native American/Aboriginal literature and federal Indian law in the United States and Canada; American literature and cultural studies; and Ni:mi:pu: (Nez Perce) language and literature. She is currently completing a book entitled *Domestic Subjects: Gender, Citizenship, and Law in Native American Literature* focusing on legal discourses in the literary works of the indigenous authors E. Pauline Johnson, John Oskison, Mourning Dove, Alice Callahan, and D'Arcy McNickle. Other current writing projects include the completion of a short fiction collection called *Beading Lesson and Other Stories*; translations of Ni:mi:pu literary, liturgical, and historical texts; and a book, funded in part by a grant from the Hellman Family Foundation, focusing on Nez Perce texts and translation.

**Cheryl Suzack** (Batchewana First Nations) is an Assistant Professor of English, and was educated at the University of Guelph and the University of Alberta. Her research explores the intersections between Indigenous law and literature with a focus on Indigenous women's writing in the post–civil rights period. She is a co-editor and contributor to *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture* (UBC Press 2010), a co-editor of "Law, Literature,

Postcoloniality,” and *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, and a contributor to a special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly*, “Sovereignty, Indigeneity, and the Law,” which was voted best special issue of 2011 by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. She is in the final stages of completing a book entitled *Indigenous Women’s Writing and the Cultural Study of Law*. Suzack is cross-appointed to the Aboriginal Studies Program and teaches courses for English and Aboriginal Studies on comparative Indigenous literatures, comparative Indigenous studies, and Indigenous decolonization with a focus on gender issues and Indigenous women.

**Robert Talbot** is a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Ottawa, where he has also taught as a part-time professor. His ongoing dissertation research is concerned with Canadian Anglophone-Francophone relations during the interwar period. In addition to having presented at a number of academic conferences, he has published articles on political, Aboriginal and military history in *Mens : Revue d’histoire intellectuelle de l’Amérique française*, in *The First Perspective*, and in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*. Robert’s recent book, *Negotiating the Numbered Treaties: An Intellectual and Political Biography of Alexander Morris* (Purich, 2009), won the 2009 Saskatchewan Book Award for Publishing in Education and the 2009 Manitoba Historical Society’s Margaret McWilliams Award for Scholarly History. In addition to his academic background, Robert has worked in policy and research for both Canadian Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs Canada, and in 2011 he was appointed to the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba Speakers Bureau.