

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
WSU Interdisciplinary  
Social Justice Conference (WSU SJCON)**

**Reimagining Social Justice: Coalitions and Coalitional Possibilities**

March 12th – March 13th, 2020

Washington State University  
Virtually Over Zoom.

[Register Here](#)

Conference Program



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
WSU Interdisciplinary Conference on Social Justice**

**SPONSORED BY:**

Native American Programs  
Washington State University

Department of English  
Washington State University

Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Washington State University

Hipéexnu'  
Local Non-Profit

Department of Teaching and Learning  
Washington State University

LMK Inc.  
Local Business

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS:**

Julian Ankney [she/her], Instructor, English, Conference Co-Chair  
Kathryn Manis [she/her], Doctoral Candidate, English, Conference Co-Chair  
Ray Acuna-Luna [he/him], PhD Student, Cultural Studies and Social Thought in Education &  
Director, College Access Programs  
Brandon Edwards-Schuth [he/they], Doctoral Candidate, Cultural Studies and Social  
Thought in Education  
Rachel "Chedda" Ellenwood [she/her] MA Student, Murrow College of Communication  
Sitara Gonzalez [she/they], PhD Student, English, Conference Treasurer  
Dr. Renee Holt [she/her], Clinical Faculty & Project Director, College of Education  
RJ Murphy [they/them], MA Student, English, Conference Social Media Coordinator  
Misty Shipman [she/her], PhD Candidate, English

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Dr. Ashley Boyd [she/her], Faculty Mentor

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### **Stephany Runninghawk Johnson, Ph.D. and Ben Alexi Dupris**



We are pleased to share that our Friday keynote will be delivered by Stephany Runninghawk Johnson. Dr. Stephany RunningHawk Johnson, a member of the Oglala Lakota nation, focuses her research on recruiting, retaining and supporting Indigenous students attending universities and majoring in science fields, with a particular emphasis on how the philosophy behind the way science courses are taught creates barriers for Indigenous students, as well as other students of color. All of Stephany’s work is dedicated to supporting Nation building, Tribal sovereignty, and empowering Indigenous communities and students in working toward social justice.

We are also thrilled to announce that Ben-Alex Dupris, a member of the Miniconjou Lakota nation and the Colville Confederated Tribes, as well as an award-winning filmmaker, will provide our Saturday, closing keynote address and a screening of his short film "Sweetheart Dancers." Dupris creates work that pushes the boundaries of modernity and traditionalism, changing perspectives of Indigenous concepts without censorship. "Sweetheart Dancers" shows a slice of the emotions and challenges of decolonization from the perspectives of Adrian and Sean, the first Two-Spirit couple entering into the popular couples’ competition, known as the "Sweetheart Dance," that is held at powwows across the country.

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## Program Schedule At-a-Glance

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### Friday-March 12th

	<b>Themes: “Land, Moving Beyond Acknowledgments and the Power of Coalitions”</b>
9:00 to 9:15 am	Opening Acknowledgment: Dr. Renee Holt
9:15 to 9:30	Welcome: From Your Conference Co-Chairs
9:30 to 10:30 am	Opening Invited Speaker: Tai Simpson
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Session I
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual “Brown Bag” Lunch
1:30 – 2:30	Session II
3:00 – 4:00	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Stephany Runninghawk Johnson
	<b>Open Conversation Time</b>

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### Saturday-March 13th

	<b>Themes: “Identity, Representation, and Intersections”</b>
9:00 to 9:15 am	Poetry Reading: Marina Lotus,
9:15 to 10:15 am	Session I
10:30 to 11:30 am	Session II
11:45 – 12:45 pm	Session III
12:45 – 1:45 pm	Lunch Break - Open
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Session IV
3:00 – 4:30	Keynote Speaker and Film Screening: Ben- Alex Dupris, “Sweetheart Dancers”

4:30 – 5:00	Closing Remarks and Thank You
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## Program Schedule – Detailed View

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**Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	<b>Opening Acknowledgment – Dr. Renee Holt</b>
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9:15 – 9:30 am	<b>Welcome and Remarks</b>
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9:30 – 10:30 am	<b>Opening Invited Speaker: Tai Simpson</b>
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Talk Title:	“Indigenous Storytelling as a Political Lens”
Moderator:	Julian Ankney    Respondent/Discussant: Rachel Ellenwood

10:30 to 11:00 a.m.	<b>Zoom Break</b>
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11:00 – 12:00 pm	<b>Session I</b>
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Panel Topic:	“Moving Beyond the Land Acknowledgment”
Moderator:	Dr. Renee Holt    Respondent/Discussant: Ray Acuna-Luna

**Tipiziwin Tolman** [she/her] Standing Rock Sioux, WSU Pullman and University of Victoria

12:00 to 1:00 pm	<b>Virtual “Brown Bag” Lunch</b>
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1:00 to 1:30 pm	<b>Zoom Break</b>
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1:30 – 2:30 pm	<b>Session II</b>
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Panel Topic:	“Remembering the Past, Acting in the Present, Imagining the Future”
Moderator:	Julian Ankney    Respondent/Discussant: Keola Birano

**“Women Can’t Have Friends”**  
**Dr. Beth Piatote** [she/her] Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, Native American Studies, UC Berkeley

**“Indigenous Methodology: Connecting Land, Language, and Stories”**

**Angel Sobotta** [she/her] Niimfipuutimt Teacher, Nez Perce Language Program, Lapwai, ID

**“Targeted Revitalization through Creativity”**

**Sarah Hennessey** [she/her] Playwright and Poet

**“Diverse Indigeneity: Exploring Intersectionality and Identity”**

**Kellen Trenal** [he/him] Artist and Content Creator

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2:30 to 3:00 pm                      **Zoom Break**

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3:00 to 4:30 pm                      **Keynote Address: Dr. Stephany Runninghawk Johnson**

Moderator: Kathryn Manis                      Respondent/Discussant: Dr. Ashley Boyd

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4:30 - 5:00                      Open Time to Discuss and Chat with One Another

### **Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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9:00 – 9:15 am                      **Opening Poet: Marina Lotus [she/her]**

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Reading from her chapbook, “Halffrican”

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9:15 to 10:15 am                      **Session I**

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Panel Title: “Latinx, Asian-American, & Muslim Americans: Constructing Coalitions from Love”

Moderator: RJ Murphy                      Respondent/Discussant: Wyn Richards

**Mitzi Ali Luna Cabellos** [she/her] MA Student, English WSU

**Dr. Robert Eddy/Salah Al-Din** [they] English, WSU-Pullman

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10:15 to 10:30 am                      **Zoom Break**

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10:30 to 11:30 am                      **Session II**

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Panel Topic: "Water is Life: Centering Water and Beating Back Big Oil in Solidarity with Indigenous Communities"

Moderator: Kathryn Manis Respondent/Discussant: Brandon Edwards-Schuth

**Roben White** [he/him] Cheyenne/Lakota Activist, Organizer, and Consultant

**Dr. Desiree Hellegers** [she/they] Associate Professor, English, WSU-Vancouver & Co-Director of the Collective for Social and Environmental Justice

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11:30 to 11:45 am

**Zoom Break**

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11:45 – 12:45 pm

**Session III**

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Panel Topic: "Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and Arts of Resistance"

Moderator: Rachel Ellenwood Respondent/Discussant: Misty Ellingburg

**Video Compilation**, Rachel Ellenwood

Panel Discussion:

**Roxanne White** [she/her] Organizer and Social Justice Advocate

**Julian Ankney** [she/her] Instructor, English, WSU

**Jeanette Moody** [she/her] Nimiipuu Law Student, University of Idaho

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12:45 to 1:30 pm

**Lunch Break**

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1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

**Session IV**

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Panel Topic: Queering the Palouse: Possibilities through Coalitions

Moderator: Heather Ramos Respondent/Discussant: Marco Cerqueria

**Bucky McKenzie** [he/him] Chair, President's Commission on Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation

**Marcela Pattinson** [she/her] Assistant Director, Undocumented Initiatives

**Matthew Jeffries**, [he/him], Director, Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center

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2:30 to 3:00 pm	<b>Zoom Break</b>
3:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Film Screening, “Sweetheart Dancers” and Keynote Address: Ben Alex Dupris</b>
Moderator: Misty Ellingburg	Respondent/Discussant: Dr. Melissa Nicolas
4:30 to 4:45 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

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**THANK YOU!**