Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophers

2018–2019 Membership

Lori Underwood, chair (2020)
Brian Y. Burkhart (2019)
Anne S. Waters (2019), newsletter editor
Robert M. Figueroa (2020)
James Maffie (2020)
Alex Guerrero (2021)
Christopher Kavelin (2021)
Agnes B. Curry, newsletter editor
Andrea Sullivan-Clarke, newsletter editor
Shay Welch, newsletter editor
Committee Report
Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophy

Lori J. Underwood, chair

The Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophy completed a number of projects this year. Most significantly, we worked with the APA on two statements of acknowledgement of Right Relationship and Open Dialogue. One will be read at all future APA meetings and one will be included in meeting programs. These statements give context and acknowledgement to the complex relationship between modern Americans and this committee’s indigenous ancestors and we thank the APA for working with us on these important statements.

The committee named a new associate chair this year. We are happy to welcome Dr. Andrea Sullivan-Clarke, University of Windsor. Andrea has been an active member of the committee for several years and we look forward to her work as associate chair.

From articles in the newsletter to APA sessions, it has been a successful year for committee scholarship. Dr. Agnes Curry, University of St. Joseph, continues to do exceptional work as the managing editor of our newsletter. The fall edition featured the articles by Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner, Lauren Eichler, L. Sebastian Purcell, Shay Welch and Sergio Gallegos. There was also a book review of Kyle T. Mays: “Hip Hop Beats, Indigenous Rhymes: Modernity and Hip Hop in Indigenous North America” by Andrew Smith. Our spring issue featured a poem by Andrea Sullivan-Clarke and articles by Brian Yazzie Burkhart and James Maffie.

At the 2019 Pacific Meeting, the committee hosted a session on “Decolonizing and Indigenizing Philosophy” featuring Andrea Sullivan-Clarke and Joseph Len Miller, University of Washington. We hosted a second session on “Indigenous Philosophy of Mexico: Ancient and Contemporary” featuring Andrea Sullivan-Clarke as chair, and speakers Noell Birondo, Wichita State University; Sebastian Purcell, SUNY, Cortland; and Amy Reed-Sandoval, University of Texas at El Paso.
It was a fruitful year for the committee. We are well into the planning stages for the new academic year. In addition to our normal scholarly activities, we are developing a mentoring program for Native American and Indigenous graduate students. We look forward to another productive year.