

Session One Abstract: Native Ontologies and Epistemologies as Praxis (9:30-11:40)

Abstract

These three papers address very important directions in indigenous studies— the use of indigenous knowledges to unpack colonialism and impact Indigenous communities. Rather than just foray into the *study of* Native people, these authors take steps to address issues in Indigenous communities by intersecting current issues with forms of cultural practices and knowledges. One of the most effective ways of engaging issues and finding solutions to present issues is not to approach communities as “damaged” as Eve Tuck clarifies for us, but rather to “suspend” this approach and instead turn towards that which seeks solutions through indigenous practices. This session will examine the ways in which indigenous ontologies and epistemologies in the form of language, storytelling, and practice are the cornerstone to approaching today’s difficult questions.