

Session Two Abstract: Identity in Three Dimensions: Past, Present, and Future Implications

Abstract

Ethnic and social identity of Indigenous groups have often been tied to negative social standing and stereotypical depictions of such groups as “primitive,” “backward”, or even “disappeared.” Identity is also generally rooted in historical texts which may or may not be used to promote a national identity of the dominant culture which usually dismisses the Indigenous group as fully integrated into the mainstream culture. Such is not the case, however, as many contemporary groups not only maintain a long-term identity but also work actively to replace stereotypical representations with contemporary ones. This session will examine some of the implications of Indigenous identity based on the archaeological past, contemporary education and environmental issues, and the impact of scientific (DNA) studies on identity construction.