
Recent ICIK Seminars

Seminar Series: January–April 2016

Seminars are archived and available for viewing at the [ICIK Website](#).

“Are We So Different?” A Look at the Influence of Culture on Breast Cancer Screening Behaviors in Nigeria



On February 17, 2016 Reni Bilikisu Elewonibi, a PhD candidate at Penn State, presented a seminar on the importance of breast cancer screening in Nigeria. Reni’s project used a cultural health promotion framework, the PEN3 model, to identify indigenous knowledge related to beliefs about breast cancer screening in

Lagos, Nigeria. Interviews provided insight into social and cultural barriers that influence screening decisions. The aim was to create a culturally grounded intervention that resonates with cultural and behavioral norms, in the hope of increasing breast cancer screening uptake. Reni’s presentation revealed that such decisions are particularly important for women living in a region with limited resources and competing health care needs.

Reni Bilikisu Elewonibi is a PhD candidate in health policy and administration and demography at Penn State. She is also a recipient of the 2015 M.G. Whiting Student Indigenous Knowledge Research Award.

Through an Indigenous Lens, Food Security is Food Sovereignty: Case Studies of Māori of Aotearoa-New Zealand and Andeans of Peru

On April 27, 2016, Mariaelena Huambachano presented a seminar entitled “Through an Indigenous Lens, Food Security is Food Sovereignty: Case Studies of Māori of Aotearoa-New Zealand and Andeans of Peru.” The seminar, which was co-sponsored by ICIK, presented findings from a research project exploring food security, food sovereignty, and the relationships between them through an indigenous lens. Mariaelena focused on the “good living principles” of indigenous peoples of Peru (Allin Kawsay) and New Zealand (Mauri Ora) as keys to understanding possibilities for improving food security policies. Mariaelena’s research is guided by an innovative indigenous research framework referred to as the “Khipu Andean.” Her case studies are based on in-depth, semi-structured interviews, workshops, and talking circle sessions with Māori Kaumatua/Elders, business leaders, and academics in North Island, New Zealand. Her case studies were based on similar data in the Peruvian Andes. These case studies demonstrate how Māori and Quechua peoples’ resilience in food security and sovereignty stems from their good living principles. Such principles emphasize cultural identity, revitalization of small-scale farmers, and sustainability practices that value community participation, self-sufficiency, and empowerment. She will argue that indigenous peoples’ knowledge embedded in their “good living philosophies” for food security and sovereignty can enhance conceptualization of a food sovereignty framework.



Mariaelena Huambachano is a doctoral candidate in the School of Management and International Business at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She is also a researcher with the Mira Száscy Research Centre for Māori and Pacific Economic Development at the University of Auckland. She holds a Bachelor of Business Studies and a Postgraduate Diploma in Management, both from Massey University, New Zealand. Her research interests center on sustainable development, indigeneity, international trade and development, and models of food security and food sovereignty.

Traditional, Natural, Esoteric: The Presence of Indigenous Knowledge in Urban Colombia



On April 20, 2016, Dr. Richard Stoller presented a seminar on the role of indigenous knowledge in Colombia and the nation's future. Colombia is one of the most urbanized countries in Latin America, and urban perceptions of rural realities are at the heart of current debates about Colombia's future. Colombia's indigenous people, while only 3.4 percent of the population, have a significant place in

those perceptions; however, they are often stereotyped. Dr. Stoller's seminar looked at a number of examples of how indigenous knowledge is viewed and appropriated in urban Colombia and recent efforts by indigenous people and organizations to reassert control over the presence of indigenous knowledge and identity in wider society.

Dr. Richard Stoller is the Coordinator of Academic Advising and International Programs at the Penn State Schreyer Honors College. He has written about several topics in nineteenth and twentieth century Colombian history since he first traveled to Colombia as an undergraduate over thirty years ago.

Linguistic Knowledge and Language Use in the Yucatan Peninsula

On April 6, 2016, Dr. Lindsay Butler-Trump presented a seminar on the role of language in the transfer of knowledge and its implications in Mexico. Dr. Butler-Trump's seminar, which was introduced by Dr. John Lipski, addressed the question: What does it mean to be human? A fundamental answer to this question involves our ability to transfer knowledge through language. Yet our understanding of the knowledge and use of human language has traditionally failed to include speakers of indigenous languages. This seminar examined linguistic knowledge and language use among speakers of Yucatec Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.



Dr. Lindsay Butler-Trump earned her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Arizona in 2011. She is currently a master's candidate in speech-language pathology at Penn State. Since 2004, Dr. Butler-Trump has been carrying out research with people who speak Yucatec Maya. She is the recipient of numerous research awards including the 2015 M.G. Whiting Student Indigenous Knowledge Research Award.