

Recent ICIK Seminars

The Interinstitutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge sponsors several seminars throughout the year that are focused on indigenous topics ranging from health to societal issues. These are the seminars put on by ICIK during the 2016/2017 academic year.

Eat Healthy: Ancient Knowledge and Modern Technology Fight Cancer Together

Dr. Jairam K. P. Vanamala
September 7, 2016

Dr. Jairam K. P. Vanamala is an Associate Professor and Director of the *Food for Gut Health Laboratory* in the PSU Food Science Department in addition to being a faculty member at the *Center for Molecular Immunology and Infectious Diseases* at the Penn State Hersey Cancer Center. He studies anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties of whole foods using pig and rodent models. Dr. Vanamala's goal is to develop safe, effective, and affordable strategies based on whole foods to counter the growing, world-wide epidemic of cancer and other chronic diseases.

Native Myths in American Society

Dr. Bruce D. Martin and Danna Jayne Seballos
October 10, 2016

Speakers Dr. Bruce D. Martin and Danna Jayne Seballos explored the myths that have been exposed about Native peoples and their cultures in American society, and discussed events such as the Longest Walk 5 and the Dakota Access Pipeline Protest. Penn State students and staff described and reflected on experiences during Community, Environment, and Development (CED) Programs at Penn State, and gave a basic description of what each program entails.

“Why didn’t I learn about Native American history in school?”

Dr. Sarah B. Shear and Madison Miller
November 16, 2016

This seminar highlighted the research of Dr. Shear, a faculty member at Penn State Altoona, and the honors thesis undertaken by Madison Miller, a Schreyer Honors College student who graduated in December. Sarah discussed how social studies curricula and teacher practices determine how students from Pre-K through Grade 12 learn about Native Americans. Madison shared the findings of her interviews with Penn State students and faculty as well as community members to understand how they learn and teach about indigenous peoples of North America.

A Promise Unmet: The State of Higher Education for American Indian Youth

Dr. Victoria E. Sanchez and Rasa Drane
November 18, 2016

Recent articles in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* outline America's broken promise of higher education for American Indians. Victoria Sanchez and Rasa Drane provided an overview and commentary on issues affecting Native access to higher education at Penn State and new initiatives that seek to address this unmet promise.

How Women Cocoa Farmers Respond to Climate Change

Sarah Eissler, M.G. Whiting Student Indigenous Knowledge Research Award Winner 2016
November 30, 2016

Sarah is studying gender dynamics related to climate change among small-scale cocoa farmers in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. A mixed-methodological approach is employed to incorporate women into the climate change narrative. Similar to the findings of other researchers, her preliminary observations suggest that women cocoa farmers, in particular, are capable of change with unique perspectives, skills, and experiences.

Ecotourism in the Ecuadorian Amazon: Indigenous, Local, and Outsider Influence

Annie Marcinek, Whiting Student Indigenous Knowledge Research Award Winner 2016
January 25, 2017

Resource use patterns in and around Misahuallí, Ecuador have shifted over time from traditional indigenous practices to market-based tourism activities. Ethnographic field research collected by MS candidate Annie Marcinek in the summer of 2016 explores divergence among current stakeholders in their values and resources in this Amazonian community. Varying perspectives about tourism among a diversified population lead to discordant ideas about how to ensure sustained environmental, social, and economic benefits for the community. This inquiry reveals an interplay of indigenous, local, and outsider knowledge that influences present practice and potential future solutions for the tourism industry in Misahuallí.

The Politics of Struggle: The National Council of Indigenous Peoples (1970-1987)

María Muñoz
January 25, 2017

STAND UP AND FIGHT! was the slogan of the National Council of Indigenous Peoples (CNPI), a national organization formed during the populist presidencies of the 1970s and 1980s in

Mexico. The CNPI was born within a movement inside a government agency; its leaders envisioned a national organization that represented indigenous peoples. In the process of fulfilling that vision, they encountered a number of challenges, including opposition from the leadership of the National Campesino Confederation, charges of ethnic inauthenticity, distrust on the part of other indigenous organizations, and government espionage. Leaders of the National Council of Indigenous Peoples struggled to bring to fruition a national organization, at least for a brief period of time, that would safeguard the interests of a very diverse national indigenous population.

The Galapagos Challenge: Stewardship in an Evolving Socio-ecological System

Bill Durham
February 10, 2017

People like to think of Galapagos as uninhabited. But human settlement began three years before Darwin's visit in 1835. Today the resident population has grown to over 30,000, including almost 3,000 Serranos (Native Americans) from the Ecuadorian highlands.

People like to think of Galapagos as isolated. But the archipelago is well-integrated today with globalizing flows of people, commerce, capital, and information. At the same time, Galapagos has internally become a "socio-ecological system" with continuous tight linkages between its biophysical and social components—a uniquely symbolic microcosm of planet earth.

Nowhere are these anthropogenic changes better illustrated than in Galapagos fisheries, especially the sea cucumber and lobster fisheries. Durham's talk focused on the evolution of a novel co-management system for these Galapagos fisheries, which, while "linky and leaky," show early signs of becoming a stewardship example for the archipelago... and maybe even the world.

People like to think of Galapagos as teaching key lessons of organismal evolution. But its future significance may well be what it teaches us about the social and cultural changes necessary for humanity to coexist with the natural resources of the planet.

Studying African Indigenous Knowledge for Improved Health and Biodiversity

Abderrahim Ouarghidi and Bronwen Powell
February 15, 2017

Indigenous knowledge has been passed down from generation to generation for centuries but cannot be classified as either static or archaic. Although often overlooked by development programmers and researchers, indigenous knowledge can help communities across Africa adapt to modern day challenges. This seminar examined multiple case studies of how indigenous and local knowledge can be employed to improve health and biodiversity conservation. Abderrahim and Bronwen examined how traditional knowledge of natural resource management is helping to improve the management of economically important wild medicinal plants in Morocco as well as how local people are adapting traditional water management practices not only in Morocco but in other areas of the world. It was also examined how working with local communities can help to better understand the local constraints of healthy food options and agricultural systems in

Tanzania, and how understanding indigenous knowledge in regards to nutrition might help to improve nutrition education in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso.

One Day Workshop on Indigenous Knowledge

February 25, 2017

Abderrahim Ouarghidi and Bronwen Powell

This one day workshop intended to give students, both undergraduate and graduate, a basic foundation on indigenous knowledge, knowledge structure, theories of indigenous knowledge transmission, and methods used to study indigenous and local knowledge. The goal was for students to be able to contribute to incorporate the study of indigenous knowledge in their future work. The content of this workshop applied and appealed to a wide variety of interests and majors such as natural resource management, agriculture, nutrition, health, international development, geography, and social sciences.