UPPSALA UNIVERSITET

OPEN LECTURE

Making Love and Relations Beyond Settler Sexualities

Dr. Kim TallBear

Associate Professor in the Faculty of Native Studies, Univ. of Alberta, Canada.

We live in an era of decimation dubbed by some the "anthropocene." Settler-colonial states such as the US and Canada disproportionately consume the world. As we reconsider violent human practices and conceive of new ways of living with Earth, we must interrogate settler sexuality and family constructs that have made both land and women into property. Yet it is indigenous family that is characterized as dysfunctional. Indigenous peoples have been disciplined by the state according to a monogamist, heteronormative, marriage-focused, nuclear family ideal. Settler sexuality and its unsustainable family forms do not only harm humans, but they harm the earth. I consider how expansive indigenous kin relations, including with nonhumans, can be more emotionally, economically, and environmentally just.

Kim TallBear is author of *Native American DNA: Tribal Belonging and the False Promise of Genetic Science* (2013). She studies the racial politics of "gene talk" in science and popular culture. She is also interested in the similarities between Western constructions of "nature" and "sexuality," and how they can be understood differently in indigenous worldviews. TallBear draws on indigenous, feminist, and queer theory in her teaching and research that focus on undermining the nature/culture split and its role in colonialism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and environmental degradation. She is a citizen of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate in South Dakota and is also descended from the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. www.kimtallbear.com

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