

Global Indigenous Forum

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



Two-Spirit–Then and Now Reclaiming Our Place of Honor Presentation and Discussion by Rev. Houston R. Cypress Otter Clan, Miccosukee Tribe of Florida

Friday, April 8, 2016 | 12 - 2:45 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | SIPA 220

What is being done today to bring back pre-colonization, indigenous Two-Spirit Roles? Is it even possible? Embodying “two spirits” or “two energies,” these community members were quite often imbued with abilities to walk inbetween worlds. Specifically, they could walk in both male and female worlds, could “see” from multiple points of view, and communicate fluidly between the living and the spirit worlds. Two-Spirit within a traditional setting was a gender analysis and not a sexual orientation. Two-Spirits were namers, mediators, counselors, dreamers, leaders, and healers. Two-Spirit people were some of the most respected people, as a social group, among many nations. Today, most people associate the term with LGBT natives; however, the work of the Two-Spirit organizations is more akin with the traditional understanding. Join us for a deeper discussion of how Two-Spirit organizations work to educate the LGBT and non-LGBT communities regarding indigenous and Two-Spirit histories and traditions. How they build alliances and coalitions with other community-based organizations to increase the visibility of the Two-Spirit community and ensure the Two-Spirit community's needs and concerns are being addressed.

Rev. Houston R. Cypress is a Two-Spirit Poet, artist and activist; co-founder of the Love the Everglades Movement; president of Otter Vision Universal, a digital content & event production company; and past executive producer of the television series “Miccosukee Magazine.”

This event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the **FIU Global Indigenous Forum** and the student club, the **Global Indigenous Group**. Co-sponsored by the **Campus Student Organizations (CSO)**, **Center for Women and Gender Studies** and **Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies**.

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