

# Global Indigenous Forum Newsletter

Summer 2020 | Florida International University



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## Transition Update

As many of you may already know, Dr. Dennis Wiedman, the founder of Global Indigenous Forum (GIF) at Florida International University made the difficult decision to step back as director of GIF to focus on his family. We are grateful and deeply appreciative for his many years of service, leadership and dedication to this organization. His passion and authentic connections with so many international and local organizations, his support of students, faculty, and indigenous leaders and community members, and his many hours spent coordinating and shaping a global vision to bring so many various people together with a mission to bring global Indigenous issues, voices, and awareness to the FIU campus and world community through activities and programming has not gone unnoticed. He leaves very large shoes to fill.

Shortly before the COVID closures, Dr. Wiedman invited forty active members of GIF to two director transition meetings with the hopes that devoted faculty, students, and alumni would surface to continue the numerous roles of the director, especially taking the lead of coordinating events and communicating with the various members of GIF. At the first meeting, it was recommended

The mission of the FIU Global Indigenous Forum is to bring global Indigenous issues, voices and awareness to the FIU community through activities and academic programs. Check the GIF web page often at <http://indigenous.fiu.edu>

What podcasts are you listening to these days? Share your favorite on our social media accounts. Transition team member Cesar Castillo recommends "A Life in Ruins." The main host is a Pawnee archaeologist. He highly recommends Episode 16 which discusses how to do outreach and public education in academia. Check it out on Spotify here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6vFUdIGAVtTcxfAMTcyhcn>

Check the Global Indigenous Forum web page often at: <http://indigenous.fiu.edu/>

We greatly appreciate your financial contribution through the FIU Foundation web page.

<https://give.fiu.edu/give-now/school-of-international-and-public-affairs/>

Use "Designation" drop down menu to select the FIU Global Indigenous Forum.

*If you do not care to receive emails from the FIU Global Indigenous Forum, reply to this email (indigenous@fiu.edu) with a friendly "No Thanks."*

that a transition committee/council work through the transition. Faculty were asked to take on the lead as coordinator until the full-time position is settled. Ultimately, the goal is to have an internationally known Indigenous scholar be named Director of GIF.

Three GIF members, each of indigenous heritage, Dr. Mitzi Uehara Carter (Okinawan), Dr. Diane Benitez (Lakota), and Cesar Castillo (Huetar), expressed interest in working as members of a transition team at the second meeting. Uehara Carter is the current faculty advisor to the student club, the Global Indigenous Group (GIG), and an instructor in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, and Asian Studies Program, with a research focus on Okinawa, Benitez is a past president of GIG with a PhD on Native American reservation economic development policies, and Castillo is a past GIG president, GIF intern. We are excited to meet our global vision of including people of indigenous backgrounds from Asia, Central America and North America as part of our leadership. Dr. Wiedman has been active in transferring institutional knowledge so that the transition may be as seamless as possible.

The transition team has now expanded from the original three members and now includes Dr. Michaela Moura-Koçoglu (a long-standing member of GIF, with a research focus on Indigenous feminism) and Dr. Rebecca Christ (see Faculty committee section below for more information). Together the team has completed the annual Performance Report for the Dean's office, revised the advisory council and the smaller specialized committees including: Events, Faculty, Communication, Media/Podcast, Council of Elders, and Fundraising Committees.

## Faculty Committee

During the leadership transition, Dr. Rebecca Christ, Assistant Professor of Social Studies Education, in the Department of Teaching and Learning, in the College of Arts, Sciences & Education (CASE) was appointed to serve as chair of the GIF Faculty Committee. Dr. Christ is a keen proponent of the decolonization of educational curriculum and under her leadership in the Faculty Committee, we look forward to working with all GIF faculty to promote courses, ideas, and set goals for the upcoming academic year. We would like to invite GIF-affiliated faculty and prospective GIF-affiliated faculty to our first faculty committee meeting of the academic year to take place **Friday, August 21st from 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm** via Zoom. During this meeting, the faculty committee will discuss ongoing and new projects including student awards, workshops, decolonizing of curriculum, and GIF faculty outreach. If you would like to attend, please contact Dr. Christ at [rchrist@fiu.edu](mailto:rchrist@fiu.edu).

**Last Sunday, August 9, 2020 was International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Take a picture of what matters to you in this moment as an indigenous person or as an ally to commemorate this day. What is giving you life? Do you have a favorite book, dish that you like making, a podcast or blog, hike or view? Tag our new Instagram account that will be launched on Sunday so we can repost! @FIU\_GIF**

# Global Indigenous Forum Newsletter

## Consider a land acknowledgement statement for your events/syllabi/email signatures

The GIF Faculty committee is working on a land acknowledgement statement template that can be used locally. Dr. Marcia Magnus and Dr. Rebecca Christ have suggested FIU's increased usage of acknowledgements to increase awareness of First Nations. Please consider noting that FIU is on the homelands of the Miccosukee, Seminole, Calusa, and Tequesta peoples.

## Get Involved

If you are interested in learning more about local events and activities, please join us at any of our social media accounts listed below and be sure to visit our website [indigenous.fiu.edu](http://indigenous.fiu.edu) which will be updated shortly:

Twitter: @FIUForum

LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/FIU-GIF> (For professional Indigenous opportunities)

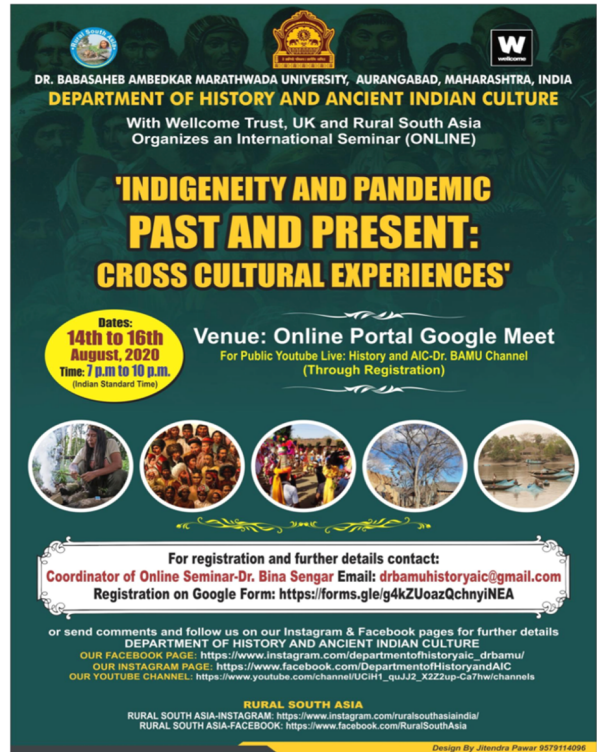
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GIGFIU>

Instagram: @FIU\_GIF (newly launched!)

## Upcoming Events – Local, Global and Virtual



- In celebration of this special day Upstander Project and National Indian Education Association are hosting a free live online screening and Q & A of the films DAWNLAND and DEAR GEORGINA on International Youth Day **Wednesday, August 12th at 8pm ET / 5pm PT**. The post-film panel includes Jaylyn Suppah (Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs) and Dr. Leilani Sabzalian (Alutiiq) along with filmmaker Adam Mazo, Upstander Project learning director Mishy Lesser and moderator Claudia Fox Tree (Arawak/Yurumein). Learn about the films and panelists and register free here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dawnland-dear-georgina-online-film-screening-live-filmmaker-q-a-tickets-112733667434?aff=fb0809>



- **August 14-16, 2020 at 9:30am EST/7pm India.** International Online Seminar-Indigeneity and Pandemic Past and Present: Cross Cultural Experiences. Dr. Maria-Luisa Veisaga (FIU) will be speaking on August 14<sup>th</sup> panel and Dr. Bina Senghar (Former GIF Fulbright Faculty Fellow) and Dr. Dennis Wiedman (FIU) will be on the August 15<sup>th</sup> panel. Register here: <https://forms.gle/g4kZUoazQchnyiNEA> and visit the [Rural South Asia website](#) for more information on the program.
- **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.** Dr. Simone Athayde will be giving a lecture via Zoom on Indigenous peoples, social environmental justice and sustainability based on insights from the Brazilian Amazon. Dr. Athayde is a new associate professor and anthropologist at FIU whose research is based on indigenous people in Brazil and the Amazon basin. Please check back on our events page for updates and a flyer/zoom link.



**GLOBAL MIND CHANGE**

September 21, 2020  
11:00 am- 1:15 pm EST

FREE  
INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM  
LIVESTREAM

Register  
<https://go.fiu.edu/96691867417>

**Dialogs on Spiritual Ecology and  
Transforming Individual and Planetary Consciousness**

**Distinguished Symposium Speakers**

Paramahansa Prajnanananda, Spiritual Leader, Kriya Yoga Institute  
Seyyed Hossein Nasr, PhD, Professor of Islamic Studies, George Washington University  
Melissa K. Nelson, PhD, Ecologist and Professor of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University  
Father Augusto Zampini Davies, PhD, Director of Development and Faith, Dicastery for Promoting  
Integral Human Development, Vatican, Rome

Presented by  
**Kriya Yoga Institute**  
Celebrating 100 Years of Paramahansa Yogananda Coming to the West - Bringing Global Unity  
In collaboration with  
**FIU Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs**  
Department of Religious Studies | Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center  
Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series | Program in the Study of Spirituality  
Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies | Global Indigenous Forum

KRIYA YOGA INSTITUTE  
PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA  
FIU Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

- September, 21, 2020 11:00-1pm EST**, GIF collaborated with the Department of Religious Studies to bring Dr. Melissa Nelson to speak as one of many distinguished panelists for the symposium “Dialogs on Spiritual Ecology and Transforming Individual and Planetary Consciousness.” Dr. Nelson is an ecologist, writer, editor, media-maker and native scholar-activist. She is Anishinaabe/Métis/Norwegian and an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. Her work is dedicated to indigenous rights and revitalization, Native science and biocultural diversity, ecological ethics and sustainability, and the renewal and celebration of community health and cultural arts. Register for this free event here: <https://go.fiu.edu/96691867417>
- Current Virtual Frost Art Museum Exhibit: *Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Memorial Poles from the Debra and Dennis Scholl Collection*** until Sunday, January 10, 2021. Exhibit is organized by Nevada Museum of Art. Viewable here: <https://frost.fiu.edu/exhibitions-events/events/2020/07/the-inside-world.html> The Inside World: Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Memorial Poles from the Debra and Dennis Scholl Collection presents approximately 100 works by contemporary Aboriginal artists. The artists included in the exhibition come from Arnhem Land, a historical region in the Northern Territory of Australia. These poles traditionally served as hollow log coffins, marking the final point in Aboriginal mortuary rites. Known by different regional names, including lorrkkon in the west and larrakitj in the east, the poles signified the moment when the spirit of the deceased had finally returned home—when they had left all vestiges of the mundane “outside” world and become one with the “inside” world of the ancestral realm. Today, Aboriginal artists create these hollow log coffins as works of art. John

Mawurndjul, who was recently honored with a retrospective at the Museum Tinguely in Basel, observes: "The old ways of doing things have changed into the new ways. The new generation does things differently. But me, I have two ways. I am the old and the new." While Mawurndjul and other Aboriginal artists featured here have achieved prominence globally, their art remains firmly rooted in traditional customs and ancient narratives.

## Indigenous related courses at FIU

Please visit: <https://indigenous.fiu.edu/academics/> for the full list of courses with primarily indigenous content. Below are highlights from that list:

- REL 3308 Magic and Religions:  
<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/81036/assignments/syllabus>
- REL 3185 Healers and Mediums:  
<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/81057/assignments/syllabus> Both courses are taught by Erin Weston in the Department of Religious Studies.

### **MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

ANT 3462 - U01, Fall 2020

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 to 3:15.

Remote -Online Synchronous -- 2 weekly meetings using Canvas and Zoom

All majors welcome. No prerequisites. No instructor permission needed.

Florida International University



#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Medical anthropology is concerned with human life and wellness. Course stresses the importance of social and cultural factors in governing the type and frequency of disease in a population, the way people explain and treat disease, the way people adapt to changing environments, and the manner in which persons respond and relate to the delivery of modern medicine. Cross-cultural comparisons of health and health care systems around the world highlights Native American health, healing, and the global pandemic of obesity, diabetes and the corona virus.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES: What you should be able to do on completion of this course.**

1. Explain the importance of "culture" in governing the type and frequency of disease in a population.
2. Analyze the social and cultural basis for current health issues and disparities.
3. Identify the unique health beliefs and practices of ethnic communities.
4. Describe the responsibilities of health professionals to provide health services in a culturally appropriate manner.
5. Articulate how anthropologists contribute to health research, interventions and education.
6. Appraise various medical anthropology careers.

#### **INSTRUCTOR**

Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Anthropologist

Professor, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies

Office: University Park SIPA 327. 305-348-2262

Email: [wiedmand@fiu.edu](mailto:wiedmand@fiu.edu)

Web Page: <https://gss.fiu.edu/people/faculty/dennis-wiedman/>

Version of August 9, 2020

- ANT3462 Medical Anthropology taught by Dr. Dennis Wiedman:  
<https://indigenous.fiu.edu/people/faculty-list-alphabetical/dennis-wiedman/flyer-medical-anthropolgy-fall-2020-wiedman-08-09-20.png>
- FOL3930 U01 Quechua I taught by Regina Tupacyupanqui Arredondo

**Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center**  
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



**Quecha I**

**Instructor: Regina Tupacyupanqui Arredondo**  
Fall 2020

| FOL 3930 U01 | MoWeFr 12:00PM - 12:50PM | Remote due to COVID-19 |

Interested in learning more about Andean language and culture? This class offers the opportunity to learn the Quechua language through [Centro Tinku](#), an academic center in Cusco, Peru. Students will have remote classes with Instructor Regina Tupacyupanqui Arredondo and learn the basics of Quechua.

No previous knowledge of Quechua required. Registration is open to students from Florida International University.

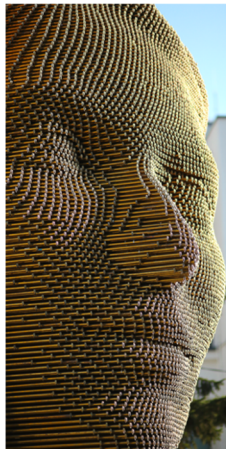
Made possible with support from LACC's US Department of Education Title VI Grant.

For more information, email [vcaviede@fiu.edu](mailto:vcaviede@fiu.edu)

**FIU** | Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

Creating a **Just, Peaceful and Prosperous World**

- WST 4617/WST 5618 (RVC) Gender & Genocide (Global Learning Course) Taught by Dr. Michaela Moura-Koçoglu



**FIU** | Center for Women's and Gender Studies  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**WST 4617 / WST 5618**  
**(RVC)**  
**Gender & Genocide**

**Fall 2020**  
**\*Global Learning Course\***

Dr. Moura-Koçoglu  
[m.moura@fiu.edu](mailto:m.moura@fiu.edu)  
[www.cwgs.fiu.edu](http://www.cwgs.fiu.edu)

- PHC 7017 Advanced Epidemiology of Health Disparity taught by Dr. Nasar Ahmed. Addresses population and global aspects of underserved communities.

## Call for Papers and Other Invitations for the GIF Community

- Aspeers is the first and currently only MA-level peer-reviewed print journal for American studies in Europe and is accepting submissions for two sections of their journal until October 25, 2020. Of particular interest for our GIF community graduate students is their special topics section which focuses on the theme of "Narratives of American Colonization and Imperialism." Find the two calls for papers here: <http://www.aspeers.com/2021> It is a wonderful publishing opportunity for our community of GIF graduate students.
- A research team of professors and students in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies is conducting an innovative visual research project focusing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and have invited our community of GIF members to participate. Your participation will contribute to public conversations and help expand FIU's ongoing research that seeks to transform policy related to COVID-19 and its effects on our lives.

Example Photo Title: Vigil on Zombie Island



## CALL FOR PHOTOS

**WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS ON COVID-19**

FIU Students, faculty, staff and members of the South Florida community, use your voice for something important by contributing to a growing gallery of COVID-19 experiences.

**PARTICIPATION IS SIMPLE**



**Step 1**  
Take a photo (or look through photos you've already taken)



**Step 2**  
Write a title and a caption for your photo that describes how COVID-19 has impacted your life



**Step 3**  
Submit your photo to [greetingscovidians.com](https://greetingscovidians.com)



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reach  
RESEARCH ENGAGING COMMUNITY & SOCIETY

For more information on the study, visit our [website](https://greetingscovidians.com) or contact [covidians@fiu.edu](mailto:covidians@fiu.edu)

The rules are simple: take a photo (or look through photos you've already taken), write a title and caption for the photo and submit it [here](https://greetingscovidians.com). The photo and caption should describe how COVID-19 has impacted your life. For example: how has COVID-19 impacted your public or personal life? Your social encounters? Or maybe the pandemic has reshaped your way of thinking or problem-solving approaches. For more information, visit their website: [greetingscovidians.com](https://greetingscovidians.com) or contact the research team at [covidians@fiu.edu](mailto:covidians@fiu.edu).