

**Public Seminar: Advancing the Federal Research Agenda on Tribal Crime, Justice, and Safety with Feedback (Speaker Biographies)**



**Jeremy Braithwaite** serves as a Tribal Research Specialist for the Tribal Law and Policy Institute. He has almost 20 years of experience as a researcher and evaluator working in community, organizational, tribal, and other governmental settings. He has led numerous community-based research and evaluation efforts focused on issues of crime and victimization in Indian Country. He served as the Co-Principal Investigator on multiple National of Institute of Justice (NIJ) research grants focused on building the capacity of Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations to design and implement high-impact research and evaluation studies focused on issues of Tribal justice, healing, and wellness. He has served as a consultant on multiple statewide Task Forces addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/Relatives crisis. Dr. Braithwaite co-developed and co-authored (with Dr. Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner of University of Maryland, College Park) the Indigenous Feminist Evaluation Framework. His research interests are primarily centered around violence against Indigenous women, Indian child welfare, and issues of Indigenous land and environmental dispossession and their linkage to colonial violence. His recent publications on this work have appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*, *Marine Policy*, the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, the *Sex Offender Law Report*, and *Family & Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly*. Dr. Braithwaite holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Arctic and Northern Studies at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



**Christine "Tina" Crossland** is a Senior Social Science Analyst in the Office of Violence and Victimization Prevention, situated in the Office of Research, Evaluation, Forensics, and Technology at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)—the research and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. She has been working on gender-based violence issues for more than 25 years. Tina works with stakeholders from academia, government agencies, industry, public safety and health organizations, and professional societies to coordinate a broad and enhanced research agenda around violence and victimization, including directing NIJ's Violence Against Women and Family Violence Research and Evaluation Program. She also oversees research on the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls living in tribal communities across the United States and studies tribal crime, justice, and safety issues in general. In all of her endeavors, she aims to develop collectively a roadmap that recommends specific actionable, feasible, and viable steps in practice, policy, and research that will effectively advance efforts to address public health and safety issues impacting all communities, wherever that may be.



**Kathy Etz** serves as the Director of Native American Programs and Acting Director of the Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness Program at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Previously, she held the position of Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs in the Immediate Office of the Director at the National Institutes of Health. With a career spanning over two decades, Dr. Etz has dedicated her efforts to supporting and advancing community-based research in partnership with American Indian and Alaska Native populations, emphasizing processes that respect and uphold Tribal sovereignty. Her specific research interests include wellness, substance misuse, and related factors. Dr. Etz's work has been recognized by awards including the Phillip L Smith Award for Exceptional Contribution to Research to Benefit Native Communities from the Native Research Network and the Advances in Culture and Diversity in Prevention Science award from the Society for Prevention Research (SPR). Dr. Etz received her Ph.D. in Human Development from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro in 1997.



**Tessa Evans-Campbell** is an Associate Professor and co-Executive Director of the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute at the University of Washington School of Social Work. She is a Snohomish tribal member and a former Tribal Councilmember with strong ties to tribal communities and Native organizations that serve children and families. Dr. Evans-Campbell's research focuses on Indigenous health equity; historical trauma, resistance and healing; Native family wellness; and child welfare in tribal communities. She has served as the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on numerous NIH-funded grants and has carried extensive qualitative and survey research in reservation-based and urban Native communities. She also leads two large research training grants focused on supporting Native students and junior scholars. Dr. Evans-Campbell began her career as a Children's Social Worker in Los Angeles County and has a wealth of practice experience in Indian child welfare practice, child welfare policy, and community advocacy. She sits on a number of boards and committees related to Native health and wellness and is a former Commissioner for the Los Angeles City/County American Indian Commission. Dr. Evans-Campbell has also won several teaching and mentoring awards including the University of Washington Lifetime Distinguished Teaching Award.



**Joseph P. Gone** is the Faculty Director of the Harvard University Native American Program and an international expert in the psychology and mental health of American Indians and other Indigenous peoples. A professor at Harvard University, Dr. Gone has collaborated with tribal communities for over 25 years to critique conventional mental health services and harness traditional culture and spirituality for advancing Indigenous well-being. As a clinical-community psychologist and action researcher, he has published over 100 scientific articles, and received recognition in his fields through more than 20 fellowships and career awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. Dr. Gone is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Illinois, and he also trained at Dartmouth College and McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He taught at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for sixteen years, where he directed the Native American Studies

program prior to joining the faculty at Harvard. An enrolled member of the Aaniiih-Gros Ventre Tribal Nation of Montana, he also served briefly as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Fort Belknap Indian reservation. He is currently a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, and of seven divisions of the American Psychological Association. In 2023, Gone received a Gold Medal Award for Impact in Psychology from the American Psychological Foundation. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.



**Richard "Glen" Melville**, an enrolled member of Makah Tribe of Washington, is the deputy bureau director, Office of Justice Services. Melville joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1997 and served a 30-year career with the bureau and Tribal law enforcement programs before retiring in 2021 as the deputy associate director for the Office of Justice Services. He returned from retirement in 2022 to lead OJS's public safety programs. Melville began his career as a police officer with the Makah Tribe in Washington in 1995. He advanced through numerous leadership law enforcement positions with the National Park Service and Homeland Security's Coast Guard Investigative Services before continuing his career with the BIA in 2012 as the assistant agent in charge of District I in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and then special agent in charge of District VIII in Portland, Oregon, before becoming the deputy associate director. Melville is a graduate of the Department of the Interior's Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Criminal Investigations Training Program, the Naval Criminal Investigations Service Training Program, the FBI Command College, and the Indian Police Academy.



**Aleta Lynn Meyer, Ph.D.** Dr. Meyer is Lead for Primary Prevention and Resilience in the Office of Planning Research and Evaluation (OPRE) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Her work focuses on the translation of theory and empirical research across multiple health and well-being outcomes into effective and feasible prevention programs for communities. At OPRE this includes strengths-based translation of research on early adversity and chronic stress to ACF programs and community-engaged research to evaluate human services programs that serve Indigenous communities in the United States. From 2007-2010, she was a health scientist administrator in the Prevention Research Branch at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Prior to joining NIDA, she was an Associate Professor of Psychology in the Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development at Virginia Commonwealth University. She completed her doctoral work in Human Development and Family Studies at The Pennsylvania State University, with an emphasis in Prevention Science.



**Tara N. Richards** is the David Scott Diamond Alumni Professor of Public Affairs and Community Service in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska (UNO) and Co-Director of UNO's Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab. Her research focuses on prevention, intervention, and responses to sexual assault, domestic/intimate partner violence, and child abuse and neglect. She has published more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters and has won more than

\$3 million dollars in competitive grants and contracts to support her research. She is the Co-Principal Investigator on two National Institute of Justice-funded tribal researcher partnerships regarding missing or murdered Indigenous persons in Nebraska and New Mexico, respectively, as well as a tribal researcher partnership to develop the first campus climate assessment for Tribal Colleges and Universities. She is a subject matter expert for the national Tribal training and technical assistance provider, Red Wind Inc. and serves on the Douglas County (NE) Sexual Assault Response and Domestic Violence Community Response Teams.



**Maegan Rides** At The Door, LCPC has served as the Director of the University of Montana National Native Children’s Trauma Center in Missoula, MT since 2015. She carries a Blackfeet name by marriage but is an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Sioux and Assiniboine Tribes and a descendant of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Maegan utilizes her knowledge in healing centered care to provide training and technical assistance with a wide variety of systems of care to realize the mission of the center which is to co-facilitate trauma-focused healing for Native children, families, and communities. The vast majority of her work is to realize systems and community change but she still provides counseling services on a limited basis. She also helps teach an introductory trauma studies course which is part of a trauma studies certificate graduate level program that she helped develop as a new offering at the University of Montana.



**Desi Small-Rodriguez** (citizen of the Northern Cheyenne Nation and Chicana) is a rez girl and a relative who works as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and American Indian Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. As a social demographer, her research explores the intersection of race, indigeneity, data, and inequality. Dr. Desi is the Founder and Director of the Data Warriors Lab, a mobile Indigenous data science laboratory that partners with tribal nations and Indigenous communities to rebuild data for strong self-determined Indigenous futures. She is the Co-Founder of the U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network and a founding member of the Global Indigenous Data Alliance. For the last fifteen years, she has partnered with Indigenous communities in the U.S. and internationally to disrupt settler colonial systems and rebuild data by Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples.



**Erik Stegman** serves as Chief Executive Officer of Native Americans in Philanthropy, a national organization advocating for stronger and more meaningful investments by the philanthropic sector in Tribal communities. Previously, he served as the Executive Director for the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute. He has held positions at the Center for American Progress on their Poverty to Prosperity team, as Majority Staff Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and in the Obama administration as a Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Education. Erik began his career in Washington, D.C. at the National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center. He holds a J.D. from UCLA School of Law, an M.A. in American Indian Studies from UCLA’s Graduate Division, and a B.A. from Whittier College.





**Nick Tilsen**, President & CEO, is a citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation. Nick has over 20 years of experience building place-based innovations that have the ability to inform systems change solutions around climate resiliency, sustainable housing and equitable community development. He founded NDN Collective to scale these place-based solutions while building needed philanthropic, social impact investment, capacity and advocacy infrastructure geared towards building the collective power of Indigenous Peoples. Tilsen has received numerous fellowships and awards

from Ashoka, Rockefeller Foundation, Bush Foundation and the Social Impact Award from Claremont-Lincoln University. He has an honorary doctorate degree from Sinte Gleska University.

**Kalvin White**, Ph.D. is from White Cone, Arizona. He is a Program Manager, Navajo Nation Department of Dine Education. He earned his doctorate in Counseling Psychology in 1998 from the University of Utah. Dr. White is currently employed with the Office of Dine School Improvement within the Department of Dine Education under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government. Dr. White was the Principal Investigator of the Navajo Nation Rural Systemic Initiative. In 1998 the Navajo Nation received a National Science Foundation grant with the charge to close the achievement gap that exists on the Navajo Nation between Navajo and non-Navajo students in math and science. The NN-RSI documented the closing of the achievement gap at the end of the grant award in August 2005. Through the efforts of the NN-RSI the Navajo Nation amended the tribal education policies that led to the Navajo Nation Council legislation the Navajo Sovereignty in Education Act of 2005. The passage of this important legislation set the foundation for the Department of Dine Education to submit to the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Interior the Dine School Accountability Plan (DSAP). DSAP is the operational definition of the Navajo Sovereignty Act of 2005 and a true exercise of the Navajo Nation's sovereign ability to govern schools on the Navajo Nation.



**Emily Wright**, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow in the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center. Dr. Wright is a member of the Cherokee Nation and is a recognized leader in the field of victimology. Her research focuses on intimate partner violence and gender-based violence, the response to victimization, and victimization among marginalized populations. She has published over 100 articles, chapters, and reports on these topics, and has received funding from multiple agencies to conduct research. Throughout her career, Dr. Wright has worked to improve the criminal legal system response to victim-survivors of

crime through research and data-driven solutions. Her recent research is featured in *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, and *Crime and Delinquency*.