

## Indigenous Peoples do not owe us anything: Indigeneity, Positionality, and Ethical Spaces in Academia



Academia has profited from promoting European/settler ways of knowing while actively denying the existence and validity of Indigenous epistemologies, science, and philosophies. These structures were not built to be inclusive spaces, they have always been and remain a place of privilege where a few Indigenous knowledge holders, movers, and shakers manage to break through. Our failings in these structures begin with the messaging of being an inclusive space while maintaining steadfast in the undeniable status quo based on western perspectives and knowledges. These perspectives are steeped in academic institutions (Kendall, 2002) and we maintain these colonial structures by participating without speaking up to ask where the Indigenous voices are in these walls. This presentation will be a dialogue on the tools and courage required to fully transform academia into safe and inclusive spaces. Ethical Space, cultural safety, two-eyed seeing, positionality, and exploring the utility of ignorance and discomfort will be discussed.

Jessie is Tsimshian (T'symsen), with matrilineal ties to Gitxaala (Kitkatla). She grew up in Prince Rupert and moved to Lheidli T'enneh territory in 2005 after a year-long student exchange program in Västerås, Sweden. Jessie has her BSc in Psychology, MA in First Nations Studies, and PhD in Human and Health Sciences. Her areas of focus fluctuate between Indigenous identities, birth and lifespan knowledge/protocols, history, contemporary discussions, and research methodologies. Having completed all three of her degrees at UNBC, she is a familiar face on campus, where in addition to being an active graduate student, teacher, and scholar, she is a Mother of two young boys and is grateful to live work and play in Prince George and the surrounding area.

**Thursday, September 15, 2022 @ 2:30-4:00pm**

Join us in person in 7-212 or online  
via Zoom:

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