Exploring our Positionality

We know that many Indigenous peoples are doing a lot of work on Indigenous data justice. We do not wish to create more work with this activity. This is an activity designed to encourage people who do not usually think about Indigenous justice issues to take time to think about it. We the organizers recognize that members of the audience may already be heavily engaged in this kind of work.

This activity is also an opportunity to think about maps and visualizations and their abilities and inabilities to represent complex historical and political realities. The [Native Land Digital](https://native-land.ca/) map we’ll be highlighting in this activity has a [Teacher’s Guide](https://native-land.ca/resources/teachers-guide/) that contains additional points to consider.

## Activity:

* Visit [Native Land Digital](https://native-land.ca/)
* Search for your address
* Explore the overlapping territories in your area (mouse over a location to see the list of overlapping territories)
* Answer questions below

## Discussions Questions

*Note: Our* [*Code of Conduct*](https://visualizingthefuture.github.io/symposium/code-of-conduct) *will be in effect for this and all other symposium events.*

### What questions do you still have after exploring the map that need further investigation?

* Change over time of peoples in these lands
  + I think this is a really interesting question, just thinking through how maps tend to be snapshots in time and risk flattening complex and dynamic histories
* If I acknowledge that I live on stolen land, am I willing to give it back?
* What can I do to support and learn from the specific community on whose land I live? Are there organizations to which I can donate resources or time, places I can study or join in conversation? Especially, are there farms or medical organizations?
* Is this a topic I can integrate in my teaching? How do I do that?
* I am more familiar with roads than rivers to find our town. That is my ignorance.
* Where I live and where I grew up encompass completely different tribes. Do people ever acknowledge both?

### What are some ways that you can contribute locally to movements for Indigenous justice?

* Work with my local institution to make spaces available and prioritize the spaces for Indigenous groups if they need them for events, meetings, etc. and at no cost.
* Developing a land acknowledgement statement for my university
* Supporting adding the flag of the local Indigenous nation to public spaces
* Participating in data for co-liberation projects with Indigenous groups
* Fund research or a scholarship through [CHIRP](https://chirpca.org/)
* Related to the above, ensure that any work done by indigenous peoples are fully funded (going against some academic models)
* Partner with local groups on use of library spaces, services:
  + <https://library.unm.edu/services/inlp.php>

### What are some ways that you can use your professional position to advocate for Indigenous justice?

* Teach about data practices that respect Indigenous data sovereignty
* Include books on data justice in our book collection
* When teaching courses or workshops, usee data created by Indigenous peoples / communities
* Model inclusion, collect and share information resources, reach out to and invite indigenous communities for clarification and approval of content shared to ensure that it accurately represents the stories that are respectful of them

### What additional resources from Indigenous communities deal with topics of Indigenous data sovereignty, justice, etc.?

* I can’t believe there are no treaties regarding my part of Maryland, that affected the Nacotchtank. Or on the east coast. Where are those agreements?
* Course on Fundamentals of OCAP: <https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>
* UNM Libraries, [Indigenous Nations Library Program](https://library.unm.edu/services/inlp.php)

### Some thoughts from the organizers

#### Things we can do in libraries:

* Build collections of Indigenous authors
* Showcase/exhibit collections of Indigenous authors
* Host events with Indigenous scholars and community members
* Programming to educate broadly on issues related to colonization, settler culture, positionality
* Challenge oppressive language and data practices
* Challenge white supremacist culture in libraries
  + <https://www.wocandlib.org/features/2021/9/3/statement-against-white-appropriation-of-black-indigenous-and-people-of-colors-labor?rq=panel>
  + <https://aprilhathcock.wordpress.com/2019/01/30/alamw-what-happened-and-what-should-happen-next/>
  + <https://bookjockeyalex.com/2021/04/01/blossom-conference-response/>
  + <https://twitter.com/tuckeve/status/1141501422611128320>
* Promote research into and reparations for violence that is part of the history of our institutions
* Challenge narratives and datasets that misrepresent Indigenous populations
* Partner with Indigenous organizations to share resources and visibility
* Consider space and place actively as part of our work; strive toward a better relationship between our libraries, local communities, and surrounding environment
* Advocate for better support for Indigenous students at our institutions ([Duke student study of support systems at other universities](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aZlv6TcAgtplXHb_ZqDYSVWX9YpmV5Fu/view))
  + Native Studies Programs (e.g., degree programs)
  + Support Programs (permanent programs funded and staffed by school)
  + Cultural and Academic Centers

#### Other resources on Indigenous justice:

* [Land acknowledgments meant to honor Indigenous people too often do the opposite – erasing American Indians and sanitizing history instead](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/land-acknowledgments-meant-to-honor-indigenous-people-too-often-do-the-opposite-erasing-american)
* [Land Reparations & Indigenous Solidarity Toolkit](https://resourcegeneration.org/land-reparations-indigenous-solidarity-action-guide/)
* [Understanding the Issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](https://www.nativehope.org/en-us/understanding-the-issue-of-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women)
* [PNR Rendezvous - Decolonizing Data (February 21, 2018)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3Xgs4lI07M&list=PLUlRqrjIldD4eMpGxuy59xQhcGYM2UZLX&index=2) (video)
  + Description: [Hope From our Grandmothers: Decolonizing Data through Stories of Resilience | NNLM](https://old.nnlm.gov/class/hope-our-grandmothers-decolonizing-data-through-stories-resilience/8148)
* [Decolonizing Data: A Quantitative Native Approach to Indigenous Mental Health and Higher Education](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okE2B8YvBMw) (video)
* [Three Sisters: Lessons of traditional story honored in assessment and accreditation](https://tribalcollegejournal.org/sisters/)
* [Equity Matters Podcast: Indigenous Data Sovereignty w/ Autumn Asher BlackDeer, MSW](https://open.spotify.com/episode/4MhzZGxkHcQKVrdGL5BCfx)
* [CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance — Global Indigenous Data Alliance](https://www.gida-global.org/care)
* [Policy Briefs — United States Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network](https://usindigenousdata.org/policy-briefs)
* UIHI work:
  + [Best Practices for American Indian and Alaska Native Data Collection – Urban Indian Health Institute](https://www.uihi.org/resources/best-practices-for-american-indian-and-alaska-native-data-collection/)
  + [Data Genocide of American Indians and Alaska Natives in COVID-19 Data – Urban Indian Health Institute](https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data/)
  + [Decolonizing Data: Strengthening Community Voices to Take Action for Our Missing Relatives – Urban Indian Health Institute](https://www.uihi.org/resources/decolonizing-data-strengthening-community-voices-to-take-action-for-our-missing-relatives/)
  + [Decolonizing Identity: Addressing Two-Spirit Health and Well-Being Through Data Collection – Urban Indian Health Institute](https://www.uihi.org/resources/decolonizing-identity-addressing-two-spirit-health-and-well-being-through-data-collection/)
  + [Who Counts? Racial Misclassification and American Indians/Alaska Natives – Urban Indian Health Institute](https://www.uihi.org/resources/who-counts-racial-misclassification-and-american-indians-alaska-natives/)
* Organizations
  + [Urban Indian Health Institute – Decolonizing data, for indigenous people, by indigenous people.](https://www.uihi.org/)
  + [United States Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network](https://usindigenousdata.org/)
  + [Global Indigenous Data Alliance](https://www.gida-global.org/)
  + [National Indian Health Board](https://www.nihb.org/)