

## **Natalie Avalos**

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Department of Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado  
Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho Territories (Boulder, CO)  
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### **EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION**

- 2020 – Present CU Boulder, Ethnic Studies Department, Assistant Professor
- 2019 – 2020 CU Boulder, Ethnic Studies Department, Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2018 – 2019 CU Boulder, Religious Studies Department, Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2015 – 2018 Connecticut College, Religious Studies Department, Visiting Assistant Professor
- 2015 Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Dissertation: “Interdependence as a Lifeway: Decolonization and Resistance in Transnational Native American and Tibetan Communities.”
- 2010 M.A., Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Thesis: “Postcolonial Healing: Indigenous Concepts of *Power* and Strategies for Self-Determination.”
- 2006 B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies (Anthropology/Religious Studies/Psychology) with Honors, University of California, Berkeley  
Thesis: “Prayer, Change and Power: The Role of Experiential Knowledge in Tibetan Buddhist and Hopi Indian Epistemology.”

### **AREAS OF RESEARCH**

Native American and Indigenous Religious Traditions, Tibetan Buddhism, Healing Historical Trauma, Indigenous Stewardship, Decolonization, Transnationalism

### **GRANTS/ FELLOWSHIPS**

#### **Extramural**

- 2024 – 2026 John Templeton Foundation, Spirituality and the Ethics of Religious Borrowing Working Group
- 2023 – 2025 Henry Luce Foundation, Creating the World Anew: Religion, Economy, and Mutual Aid Working Group
- 2018 – 2020 Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow at CU Boulder
- 2013 – 2015 UC Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) and the Henry Luce Foundation, “Humanitarian Ethics, Religious Affinities and the Politics of Dissent,” Religions in Global Diaspora and Global Affairs (RIDAGA) Humanities Studio, Co-PI (with Mariam Lam—UCR and Neda Atanasoski—UCSC)
- 2012 – 2013 Fund for Theological Education (FTE), North American Doctoral Fellow
- 2009 – 2012 Ford Foundation, Predoctoral Fellow

## **Intramural**

- 2025 – 2026 Center for Humanities & The Arts Faculty Fellowship  
2024 – 2025 Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies Research Grant  
2017 – 2018 R. F. Johnson Faculty Development Fund Award  
2016 – 2017 Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity Programming Grant  
2014 – 2015 UCSB Chicano Studies Institute Graduate Student Research Award  
2012 – 2013 UCSB Graduate Division, Humanities Dissertation Research Fellow  
2012 UCSB Chicano Studies Institute Summer Research Grant

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Refereed Journal Articles/Book Chapters**

- 2026 “Being a Good Relative: Indigenous Stewardship at Standing Rock.” In *Native American Religions*. Edited by Dana Lloyd, 183-201. Routledge.
- “Relational Agency: Right Relations as Socio-Political Power.” *Theory and Method in The Study of Religion* Vol. 38: Issue 3, 230-240.
- “Indigenous Stewardship at Standing Rock.” *Palace of Thundering Gods*, open-access American religious history textbook (In Review).
- “Colonial Disenchantment: Urban Indigenous/ Chicano Re-Enchantment in the Land of Enchantment.” Special Issue, Land, Performance and Latinx Studies. *Harvard Theological Review* (In Review).
- “Indigenous Entheogen Use: Extraction as a Barrier to Healing.” *Indigenous Religious Traditions Journal* (In Review).
- 2025 “Centering Justice in the Co-Design of Mindfulness and Compassion-based College Curricula.” Co-Authors Caitlin McKimmy, Donna Mejia, and Sona Dimidjian. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* Vol. 96: Issue 2, 235-252.
- 2024 “Stewardship as Native Teleology: Ceremonial Life and Restoring Right Relations.” *Of Living Stone: Perspectives on the Evolving Relevance of the Work of Vine Deloria, Jr.* Edited by David Wilkins, 151-159. Arvada, CO: Fulcrum Publishing.
- “By Way of Response.” Co-Author Molly Bassett. Book Forum, Indigenous Religious Traditions in Five Minutes. *Indigenous Religious Traditions* Vol 2, No. 1: 139-141.
- “Indigenous Religious Traditions and the Decolonial Turn in Religious Studies.” *Religious Studies Review*, Volume 50, Issue 2: 267-272.
- 2023 “Indigenous Stewardship: Religious Praxis and “Unsettling” Settler Ecologies.” *Political Theology* Vol. 24: Issue 7, 614-631.

- “Decolonial Futures: Diasporas, Occupied Homelands, and Struggles for Sovereignty.” Co-Authors Kealohilani Minami, Meta Sarmiento, Reema Wahdan, and Ather Zia. *English Language Notes* 61 (2): 123–142.
- “Decolonizing Religious Studies: Debates and Practical Strategies.” Co-Authors Richard Newton and Peter Valdina. *The Bulletin for the Study of Religion* Volume 52, No. 1 (March): 26-36.
- 2022 “A Veterans Talking Circle: Urban Indian Peoplehood and Re-Indigenizing Places.” *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief*, 18:1, 92-105.
- “The Metaphysics of Decolonization: Healing Historical Trauma and Indigenous Liberation.” *The CLR James Journal* 27:1-2, 81-99.
- 2021 “Decolonizing the Classroom: Settler Colonialism, Knowledge Production, and Antiracism.” In *Global Perspectives on Dialogue: Cultivating Inclusive, Authentic, and Intersectional Classroom Conversations*. Edited by Ashmi Desai and Hoa N. Nguyen, 23-32. Palgrave MacMillan.
- "What Does It Mean to Heal from Historical Trauma?" *AMA Journal of Ethics*, 23(6): E494-498.
- 2020 “Indigenous Stewardship as a Lifeway.” *Journal of Environmental Media*, 1:2: 133-138.
- 2019 “Red Praxis: Lessons from Mashantucket to Standing Rock.” Co-Authors Sandy Grande and Jason Mancini. In *Standing with Standing Rock: Voices From the #NoDAPL Movement*. Edited by Jaskiran Dhillon and Nick Estes, 245-260. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.
- 2018 “We’re Not all Immigrants:” The White Liberal Nostalgia of Immigrant Life.” *Sociological Imagination Journal*, Volume 54, No. 1: 57-65.
- 2017 “Re-Enchanting the Land of Enchantment: Religious Regeneration in a Native/Chicanx Community.” Special Issue, ChicanX and Native American Indigeneities. Edited by Gerardo Aldana, Salvador Guerena and Felicia Lopez. *rEvista: A Multimedia, Multi-genre e-Journal for Social Justice*, Volume 5, Issue 2: 1-21.
- 2014 “Indigenous Visions of Self-Determination: Healing and Historical Trauma in Native America.” *Global Societies Journal*, Volume 2: 1-13.

### **Book Chapters and Other Publications**

- 2026 “The Metaphysics of Decolonization: Healing Historical Trauma and Indigenous Liberation.” In *Heart of a Heartless World: Decolonial Reflections for a Postsecular Age*, edited by Rafael Vizcaíno. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press (In Press) (Reprinted from *The CLR James Journal* 27:1-2, 81-99).

- 2025 “Decolonial and Indigenist Approaches to the Study of Indigenous Religious Traditions.” In *Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Indigenous Religions*, edited by Graham Harvey and Afe Adogame, 117-131. London, UK: Routledge Taylor & Francis.
- 2024 “Native American Religious Traditions and Healing: Religion and Politics in North America.” In BRINA (Bloomsbury Religion in North America), Terrence L. Johnson (Section Editor). London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- “A Veterans Talking Circle: Urban Indian Peoplehood and Re-Indigenizing Places.” In *Movement and Indigenous Religions*, edited by Seth Schermerhorn and Meaghan Weatherdon. New York, NY: Routledge Publishing (Reprinted from *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief*, 18:1, 92-105, 2022).
- 2022 “Religious Studies: A Pawn in the Culture Wars.” In *On the Subject of Religion: Charting the Fault Lines of a Field of Study*, edited by Dennis LoRusso, 164-171. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing.
- “What is Decolonization and What Does it Have to do with Indigenous Religious Traditions?” In *Indigenous Religious Traditions in 5 Minutes*, edited by Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, 126-128. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing.
- “Latinx Indigeneities and Christianity.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Latino/a Christianities in the United States*, edited by Kristy Nabhan Warren, 296-315. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 “Insurgent Pedagogies: Decolonization is For All of Us.” In *Teaching Resistance: Radicals, Revolutionaries, and Cultural Subversives in the Classroom*, edited by John Mink. Oakland, CA: PM Press.
- 2017 “Becoming Human: ‘Urban Indian’ Decolonisation and Regeneration in the Land of Enchantment.” In *The Brill Handbook of Indigenous Religion(s)*, edited by Greg Johnson and Siv Ellen Kraft, 176-191. Leiden, Boston: Brill.
- 2016 “Interview with Inés Talamantez.” *Journal for the Feminist Study of Religion*, Volume 32, Issue 1: 153-169.

### **Edited Volumes**

- 2022 *Indigenous Religious Traditions in 5 Minutes*, edited by Molly Bassett and Natalie Avalos, Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing.

### **In Progress**

*Decolonizing Metaphysics: Transnational Indigenous Relationalities as Liberation*— book manuscript in preparation.

### **Media Appearances/ Interviews and Public Scholarship**

- 2026 “An Offering to the Land: Indigenous Traditions and Decolonization.” *Kinda Religious*, podcast interview by Eli Zaffirini, May 12.
- “Relational Ethics and Indigenous Plant Medicines w/ Dr. Natalie Avalos.” *Classical Ideas*, podcast interview by Greg Soden, March 24.
- “Your Individualism is Not Your Fault. But it May Be Your Problem: Indigenous Studies scholar Natalie Avalos on relational ethics, extraction, and collective liberation.” *Religion, Reimagined*, Substack article by Liz Bucar, March 17.
- 2025 American Academy of Religion Fall Fridays WebinAAR (virtual)  
 “Teaching with Native American and Indigenous Religions on Stolen Land.” Panelist, September 26.
- 2024 “Indigenous Plant Medicines w/ Dr. Natalie Avalos.” *Classical Ideas*, podcast interview by Greg Soden, August 21.
- 2023 Interview with Kassidy Arena on historical trauma in Native communities. “Indigenous, Sewing Group Empowers and Heals Through Fashion.” *National Public Radio*, Morning Edition, December 26.
- Interview with Kassidy Arena on historical trauma in Native communities. “Indigenous, Intergenerational Sewing Group Empowers and Heals Through Fashion.” *Nebraska Public Media*, December 14.
- Interview with Maria Maddox on historical trauma/ impact on Native peoples. “Sand Creek Massacre.” Exhibit. *History Colorado Museum*, June 28.
- Interview with Ruxandra Guidi on new animism. “The Spirit of the Rillito: New Animism Seeks a Connection to Nature’s Pulse.” *High Country News*, May 1.
- “The End of This World Portends the Birth of the New One.” *Political Theology Network*, Narrating Disaster Symposium, February 2.
- 2022 Interview with Lauren Magarino on historical trauma in Native American communities. “The Why.” *Newsy (Scripps News)*, October 12.
- “Interdependence and Healing: Natalie Avalos on Practice, Scholarship, and the Liberating Power of Ceremony.” With Eva Seligman, *Insight Journal*, number 48: 15-27.
- 2021 “Restoration and Justice: An Interview with Dr. Natalie Avalos on Indigenous Spirituality and Buddhist Allies.” With Raymond Lam, *BuddhistDoor Global: Wisdom of Today*, December 13.

- 2020 “Taking a Critical Indigenous and Ethnic Studies Approach to Decolonizing Religious Studies.” *Contending Modernities*, Decoloniality and Liberation Theology Series, October 14.
- “Decolonizing Religious Studies and its Layers of Complicity.” *The Religious Studies Project*, podcast interview by David McConeghy, August 17.
- “Land-based Ethics and Settler Solidarity in a Time of Corona and Revolution.” *The Arrow: A Journal of Wakeful Society, Culture & Politics*, July 9.
- “Indigenous Stewardship and the Death Rattle of White Supremacy.” *Political Theology Network*, Symposium on Environmental Justice & Settler Colonialism: A Political Theology of Climate Change, June 25.
- “Memory.” *The Immanent Frame*, A Universe of Terms Series, May 29.
- “Anti-Colonial Teaching and Buddhism.” *The Circled Square: Buddhist Studies in Higher Education*, University of Toronto, podcast interview by Sarah Richardson, February 19.
- 2018 “Decolonial Approaches to the Study of Religion: Teaching Native American and Indigenous Religious Traditions.” *Religious Studies News*, Teaching Religions as Anti-Racism Education, November 5.
- 2017 “Insurgent Pedagogies: Decolonization is For All of Us.” *Maximum RocknRoll*, Teaching Resistance column (print and online), Issue #409, June.
- 2016 “Standing with Standing Rock.” Co-Authors Sandy Grande, Jason Mancini, Rijuta Mehta, Michelle Neely, and Christopher Newell. *Cultural Anthropology*, December 22.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2025 Review of Catherine E. Walsh, *Rising Up, Living On: Re-Existences, Sowing, and Decolonial Cracks*. Duke University Press, 2023. *Indigenous Religious Traditions Journal*, Vol. 2, Issue 2: 371-375.
- 2023 Review of Françoise Dussart and Sylvia Poirier, eds., *Contemporary Indigenous Cosmologies and Pragmatics*. Edmonton, Alberta: University of Alberta Press, 2022. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol 91, Issue 2 (June): 505-508.
- 2021 Review of Jennifer Graber, *Gods of Indian Country: Religion and the Struggle for the American West*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018. *American Religion*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Spring): 151-153.
- 2020 Review of Rodney Frey, *Carry Forth the Stories: An Ethnographer’s Journey into Native Oral Tradition*. Pullman, WA: Washington University Press, 2017. *Anthropology and Humanism* Vol. 45, Issue 1 (June): 171-173.

- 2014 Review of M. Bianet Castellanos, Lourdes Gutiérrez Nájera and Arturo J. Aldama, eds., *Comparative Indigeneities of the Américas: Toward a Hemispheric Approach*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona press, 2012. *Religious Studies Review* Vol. 40, Issue 1 (March): 54-54.
- 2013 Review of Catherine A. Euler, Frank D. Tikalsky and John Nagel, *The Sacred Oral Traditions of the Havasupai: as Retold by Elders and Headman Manakaja and Sinyella 1918-1921*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2010. *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 39, Issue 3 (September): 187-187.
- Review of Jay Youngdahl, *Working on the Railroad, Walking In Beauty: Navajos, Hózhó, and Track Work*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2011. *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 39, Issue 3 (September): 190-190.
- Review of Thomas C. Maroukis, *The Peyote Road: Religious Freedom and the Native American Church*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 39, Issue 3 (September): 188-189.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

- 2026 **UPenn and Temple University, Philadelphia, PA**  
 “Restoring the Sacred: The Ethical Ground of Land as Kin.” A Symposium on Indigenous Philosophy across the Americas: Epistemologies and Ontologies Outside of the Settler Colonial Hegemony, March 20.
- Harvard Divinity School’s Center for Religion and Public Life, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA**  
 “Relational Sovereignty: Transnational Indigenous Religious Life as Decolonial Praxis,” February 6.
- 2025 **Harvard University, Cambridge, MA**  
 “Settler Colonialism, Race, and Religion.” American Academy of Religion Pre-Conference Arts of Interpretation Panel: The Persistence of White Supremacy, November 21.
- Princeton University Center for Culture, Society, & Religion, Princeton, NJ**  
 “Indigeneity, Race, and Buddhism: Healing Colonial Relations.” Race, Caste, and the Challenge of Karma: Cultivating Black Buddhist Perspectives Conference, April 5.
- University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA**  
 Keynote: “A Native Teleology: Restoring Right Relations.” American Indian & Indigenous Collective Symposium: Indigenous Futures in Higher Education, February 25.
- 2024 **Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA**

“Urban Indigenous/ Chicano Re-Enchantment in the Land of Enchantment.” Land, Performance, and Latinx Studies Colloquium, November 8.

**Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL**

“A Native Teleology: Stewardship and the Sovereignty of Plant Medicines.” Religion Department Symposium: More-than-human Religion: Indigeneity, Objects, and Ecologies, April 26.

**Society for the Biblical Study of Literature, Global Virtual Meeting**

“The End of This World Portends the Birth of the New One.” Panel: Apocalypse and Climate Crisis, April 3.

**The Tibet Museum, Dharamshala, India**

“Settler Colonialisms: Putting Native American and Tibetan Dispossession in Conversation.” March 22.

2023 **Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA**

“Comparative Indigeneities: Native and Tibetan Religious Refusal as Decolonial Praxis.” Religious Studies Department Research Colloquium, October 18.

**Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN**

Faith in the Story: Amplifying the Conversation, Workshop and Trialogue, October 8-11.

**Davidson College, Davidson, NC**

“Restoring Equitable Relations: Deep Witnessing and Healing Racial Trauma.” The Rhodes Series on Buddhist Engagement, September 27.

**Mind & Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison Institute, Garrison, NY**

“Racism is Written on the Body: Deep Witnessing and Healing Racial Trauma.” Theme: Trauma, Flourishing, and Belonging, June 4-10.

**University of Chicago Divinity School & Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, Chicago, IL**

“Native Women’s Procreative Power.” Religion and Reproductive Politics. Panel: Fertility Pregnancy and Motherhood/Parenthood, April 20.

**Stockton University Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program, Galloway, NJ (virtual)**

Panel Discussion: Indigenous Sovereignty and the Refusal of Settler Colonialism, March 30.

2022 **Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN**

Faith in the Story: Religious Futures, Workshop and Trialogue, December 12-14.



**Rocky Mountain American Religion Seminar, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT**

“Planting Yourself in the Land: Transnational Native American and Tibetan Religious Refusal.” Talk and Chapter Workshop, October 20.

**Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Denver, CO**

Diasporas, Occupied Homelands, and Struggles for Sovereignty, Plenary Panel, April 14.

**The Center for Psychedelic Studies, Naropa University, Boulder, CO**

“Navigating Plant Medicines: Ethics and Responsibilities.” Panel: Psychedelic Healing Practices in Spiritual and Religious Communities, April 9.

**Scripps College, Claremont, CA**

“Becoming: Ontological Healing and the Regeneration of Native Women’s Power.” Wicker Lecture, Panel: Native American Women’s Sacred Work: Lessons in Survivance, March 30.

**American Academy of Religion Rocky Mountain – Great Plains Regional Meeting, Denver, CO**

“Decolonizing Metaphysical Worlds: Indigenous Religious Traditions and the Decolonial Turn.” Junior Scholar Plenary, March 25.

**The Center for Psychedelic Studies, Naropa University, Boulder, CO**

“Let Us Be Stewards.” Response to Roshi Joan Halifax. The Possibilities and Power of the Psychedelic Resurgence, March 15.

- 2021 **Harvard Divinity School Program on Religion and Public Life, Boston, MA (virtual)**  
Theologies of Hope and Resistance: Palestine, South Africa, and Transnational Indigenous Communities, Panel Discussion, November 30.

**Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany (virtual)**

“Decolonizing Tibetan/Buddhist Studies.” Tibet & Himalaya Lecture Series, Nov. 1.

**Princeton University Center for Culture, Society & Religion, Princeton, NJ**

“Comparative Indigeneities Among Native and Tibetan Peoples.” Religion and the Public Conversation Series, October 26.

**Naropa University, Boulder, CO (virtual)**

“Dismantling Settler Colonialism: Being a Buddhist Ally to Indigenous Peoples.” Beloved Community Week, October 11.

**University of California Riverside Religious Studies/Asian Studies Departments, Riverside, CA (virtual)**

“Decolonizing Religious Studies.” May 12.

**Northwestern University, Religious Studies Department, Chicago, IL (virtual)**  
“Decolonizing Buddhist Studies.” Khyentse Foundation Buddhist Studies Lecture Series, Roundtable Discussion, March 31.

**University of California Santa Barbara Earth Sciences Department, Santa Barbara, CA (virtual)**  
“Earth Justice: Indigenous Stewardship.” Earth Science Colloquium, February 4.

2020 **University of California Berkeley Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, Berkeley, CA (virtual)**  
“Land-Based Ethics and Settler Solidarity.” Critical Engagements in Anti-racist Environmental Scholarship Course, guest speaker, November 4.

**University of California, Santa Barbara Multicultural Center, Santa Barbara, CA (virtual)**  
“Chicanx Indigeneities: Decolonization and Religious Refusal.” Race and Religion Series, October 29.

**Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages, Berkeley, CA (virtual)**  
“Resisting Settler Colonialism as Buddhist Allies to Indigenous Peoples.” Currents: Conversations on Critical Contemporary Issues in Buddhist Thought and Practice, October 23.

**University of Edinburgh Religious Studies Seminar Series, Edinburgh, UK (virtual)**  
“Indigenous Stewardship, Settler Ecologies, and Decolonization.” Advocacy, Indigeneity, and Religion Panel Discussion, October 21.

**Vanderbilt University Department of Religious Studies, Nashville, TN (virtual)**  
Religion and the 2020 Election: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward, Roundtable Discussion, October 14.

**Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN (virtual)**  
Indigenous Religion and Spirituality, Roundtable Discussion, June 23.

**Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL**  
Policing the Academy, Panel Discussion, February 15.

2015 **Religion Department and the Consortium of Studies on Race, Colonialism and Diaspora, Tufts University, Medford, MA**  
Questions of Faith: Religions, Diasporas, Colonialism, Panel Discussion, November 9.

#### **Conference Activity**

2025 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA**

“Law as Story.” Panel: Author-Meets-Critics: Dana Lloyd’s *Land as Kin: Sovereignty, Religious Freedom, and Indigenous Sacred Sites* (2024). Native Traditions in the Americas, November 23.

**Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK**

“Teaching Indigenous Relationalities.” Roundtable Discussion, June 28.

**National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies Conference, San Antonio, TX**

“Chicano/a Indigeneity.” Roundtable Discussion: Decolonial Healing and Re-Indigenizing in Chicano/x Communities, April 4.

2024 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA**

“Teaching Native American Religious Traditions.” Presider. Roundtable Discussion: Native Traditions in the Americas Unit, November 24.

**East-West Philosopher’s Conference, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Manoa, HI**

“Deep Witnessing: Racial Trauma, Buddhism, and Decolonial Healing.” Panel: Decolonizing the Self, Mending the World: Buddhist Processual Views of Collective Suffering, Responsibility, and Structural Change, May 28.

2023 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX**

“A Conversation about Indigenous Religious Traditions in 5 Minutes.” Respondent. Roundtable Discussion: Native Traditions in the Americas Unit, November 20.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX**

“Is There Buddhism Without Caste?: An Interdisciplinary Conversation.” Presider. Roundtable Discussion: Buddhism Unit and Buddhism Critical Constructive Reflection Unit, November 19.

2022 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO**

“American Racism, Buddhism, and Trauma.” Panel: Legacies of Violence: Trauma, Buddhism, and our Collective Bodies. Buddhist and Buddhist Philosophy Unit, November 21.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO**

“Decolonizing the Study of Religion: Debates and Practical Strategies.” Academic Relations Committee, November 21.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO**

“Indigenous Stewardship: Indigenous Metaphysics and “Unsettling” Settler Ecologies.” Panel: Decolonial Critiques of the Secular/ Religious Divide. Political Theology Unit and Secularism and Secularity Unit, November 21.

**Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Conference, Toronto, ON**

“Reading Tibetan Dispossession through an Indigenous Studies Lens.” Panel: Re-Indigenizing Research in the Himalayas, October 15.

**Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS) Summer Institute, Fort Collins, CO (virtual)**

“The Metaphysics of Decolonization: Healing Historical Trauma Through Ceremonial Life.” Panel: Indigenous Praxis: Religion, Action, and Motherhood, July 29.

- 2021 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX (virtual)**  
“Why Decolonize Tibetan/Buddhist Studies?” Panel: Manifestos for Buddhist Studies. Buddhism Unit, November 21.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX (virtual)**

“Indigenous Stewardship: “Unsettling” Settler Ecologies.” Speaker for Religion, Media, and Ecology: Built Ecology, Built Environments, and Religious Belonging. Religion and Media Workshop, November 19.

**Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON (virtual)**

“Religious Praxis as Sacred Purpose: The Metaphysics of Urban Indian Religious Regeneration.” Panel: Understanding Native American and Indigenous Ceremonial Life: Complicating Religion, Spirituality, and the Sacred, May 18. (Panel Organizer)

**Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Washington, DC (virtual)**

Panelist. Roundtable Discussion on Quynh Nhu Le’s *Unsettled Solidarities*, April 8.

- 2020 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual Meeting**  
“Taking an Indigenous Studies Approach to Religious Studies.” Panel: Decolonizing our Fields: Women of Color Scholars on Transforming the Guild. Women of Color Teaching, and Activism Group, December 3.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual Meeting**

“Somatic Knowledge Production in Native American Religious Traditions.” Panel: I Know the Feeling: Affect in the Academic Guild. Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit and Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit, December 2.

**American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA**

“The Metaphysics of Decoloniality: Indigenous Religious Refusals as Sovereignty.” Political Theology Panel: Indigenizing Philosophy, accepted/cancelled.

- 2019 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA**  
“Settler Colonialism and Tibet.” Panel: Decolonial/Anti-Racist Interventions in Tibetan/Buddhist Studies. Tibetan and Himalayan Religions, November 25 (Panel Organizer).

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA**

“Indigenous Theory is Not Theology: Decolonizing the Study of Religion.” Panel: Theory and Method 2.0: Decolonizing the Field. Joint Session: Critical Theory and Discourse on Religion and Cultural History of the Study of Religion, November 24.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA**

“Rematriation as Indigenous Praxis.” Panel: Author-Meets-Critics: Cutcha Risling Baldy’s *We Are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies* (2018). Native Traditions in the Americas, November 23.

**North American Association for the Study of Religion, San Diego, CA**

Respondent. Gregory Alles, “The Role of and Influence of Private Funding on the Field.” November 22.

**American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI**

“The Metaphysics of Decoloniality: Making America Indigenous Again.” Panel: Decolonizing the Study of Religion, November 9.

2018 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO**

“Widening the Sacred Hoop: Decolonial Healing in a Native/Chicanx Community.” Panel: Decolonization as Healing Session I: Navajo, Native/Chicanx, and Afro-Caribbean Religion. Quad-Sponsored Session: African Diaspora Religions Group, Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit, and Native Traditions in the Americas Group and Religions, Medicines, and Healing, November 17.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO**

“Planting Yourself in the Land: Urban Indian Peoplehood and Reindigenizing Places.” Panel: Movement and Indigenous Religions. Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit, November 17.

**American Indigenous Research Association, Polson, MT**

“The Metaphysics of Decoloniality: Urban Indian Religious Regeneration and ReIndigenizing Places,” October 12.

2017 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA**

“Writing and Researching in Native America: Walking the Insider/Outsider Line.” Panel: Indigenous Methodologies: Translating Words, Inhabiting Worlds. Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit, November 20.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA**

“We’re Not all Immigrants:” The White Liberal Nostalgia of Immigrant Life.” Panel: Making White Nostalgia “Great” Again: The Politics of Religion and Memory in the United States. Religion, Memory, History Unit, November 20.

2015 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA**

“Healing as Liberation: Native American and Tibetan Decolonization.” Quad-Sponsored Session: African Diaspora Religions Group and Indigenous Religious Traditions Group

and Native Traditions in the Americas Group and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group, November 22.

**Humanitarian Ethics, Religious Affinities, and the Politics of Dissent, Religions and Diaspora and Global Affairs Symposium, University of California, Riverside, CA**  
“Religion and Resistance in Transnational Native and Tibetan Communities.” October 2.

**Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Western Region), Santa Clara, CA**  
“Interdependence as a Lifeway: The Metaphysical Roots of Self-Determination in Transnational Tibetan Communities.” Asian American Religious Studies, March 22.

2014 **Native American Studies Graduate Student Symposium, University of California, Davis, CA**  
“Interdependence as a Lifeway: Religious Persistence and Indigenous Futurities in Native America.” Panel: Spirit Lines, Strength Lines and Knowledge: Indigenous Philosophy and Religion, April 17.

**National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies Conf., Salt Lake City, UT**  
“Interdependence as a Lifeway: Religious Persistence and Indigenous Futurities in a Native/Chicano Community.” Panel: Nepantitlan: Indigeneity in Chican@ Studies, April 10.

2013 **Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, Chicago, IL**  
“Interdependence as a Lifeway: Religiosity as Social Justice in Transnational Indigenous American Communities.” Panel: Religion, Ethnicity and the Nation-State – Part I, September 19.

2012 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL**  
“Interdependence as a Lifeway: The Metaphysical Roots of Social Justice in Transnational Native Communities.” Native Traditions in the Americas, November 20.

**Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Uncasville, CT**  
“Interdependence in the Land of Enchantment: The Metaphysical Roots of Self-Determination among Transnational Native Communities.” Panel: Religion, Sovereignty and Revitalization in Native America, June 5. (Panel Organizer and Chair)

2010 **Conference of Ford Fellows, Irvine, CA**  
“Postcolonial Healing: Indigenous Concepts of Power and Strategies for Self-Determination.” Philosophy and Religion Session, October 16.

2009 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Canada**  
“Forming Alliances for Healing Post-Colonial Wounds.” Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching and Activism Group, November 8.

**Conference of Ford Fellows, Irvine, CA**

“Indigenous Metaphysics and Ontological Healing.” Philosophy and Religion Session, October 17.

**2008 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL**

“My Sister, My Brother, My Mother, My Father: Animals in Native Traditions, A Window to Indigenous Ontology.” Native American Religious Traditions cross-listed with Animals and Religion Group, November 3.

**Intramural Talks/ Events**

**2025 University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO**

Panel: Sacred Plants and Indigenous Medicine. Presider. AFROTŌPIA Event Series, RIO Seed Grant Project: Indigenous documentary film and land struggle, December 5.

**2024 UMAS Y MECHA/ Oyate, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO**

Panel: Thankstaking. Panelist, November 21.

**Renee Crown Wellness Institute, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO**

“Generosity: Building Equitable Relations.” Guided Practice for Buffs One Read - *The Book of Joy*. Renee Crown Wellness Institute, University Libraries, & Contemplative Resource Center, April 3.

**2022 Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO**

“Decolonial Praxis and Healing Historical Trauma.” CMRC Seminar, November 16.

**CU Environmental Center, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO**

Climate Justice Panel: Healing in Action, November 10.

**University of Colorado Boulder Religious Studies Department, Boulder, CO**

“What Does it Mean to Decolonize Religious Studies?” Religious Studies Colloquium, September 28.

**2021 University of Colorado Boulder Environmental Studies Program, Boulder, CO**

“Indigenous Stewardship: “Unsettling” Settler Ecologies. Environmental Studies Colloquium, August 25.

**2020 CU Museum of Natural History and the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies, Boulder, CO (virtual)**

A Conversation on Braiding Sweetgrass and Indigenous Ecological Perspectives, Panel Discussion, December 1.

**University of Colorado Boulder Dance Department, Boulder, CO (virtual)**

“Discussing Oppression, Racism, Intersectionality, White Supremacy, and Heteropatriarchy.” CU Dance Connection (CUDC) Discussion, October 9.

**University of Colorado Boulder Environmental Studies Program, Boulder, CO  
(virtual)**

“Earth Justice: Indigenous Stewardship.” Environmental Studies Colloquium, October 7.

**University of Colorado Boulder Miramontes Arts and Sciences Program, Boulder  
CO**

“Claiming Space in the Academy.” Meet the Professor Series, January 30.

**2017 TEDx Connecticut College, New London, CT**

“Interdependence as a Living Ethic.” April 1.

**Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C.**

“Native American Activism.” Women and Activism course, spring break fieldtrip, March 12.

**2016 Connecticut College Religious Studies Department, New London, CT**

“Religious Resistance and Tibetan Identity.” Religious Studies Colloquium, April 14.

**Office of Spiritual Life and the Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion,  
Connecticut College, New London, CT**

Commonalities of Faith, Panel Discussion, January 28.

**2015 Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Connecticut College, New  
London, CT**

“Historical Trauma: From Genocide to the Streets, Surviving a World You Were Never Meant to Survive.” Minding the Gap Series, November 3.

**2014 American Indian and Indigenous Collective Research Group, University of  
California, Santa Barbara, CA**

“Interdependence as a Lifeway: Urban Indians and Decolonization.” November 9.

**2011 Interdisciplinarity and the Study of Religion Conference, University of California,  
Santa Barbara, CA**

“Indigenous Theory Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries.” Panel: Challenging Disciplinary Boundaries, May 28.

**2011 Chican@ Studies Dept. Colloquium, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA**

“Religion and Postcolonial Healing in Native North America.” May 25.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor, CU Boulder**

Indigenous Thought & Theory (Fall 2022)

Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies (Spring 2024/2025)

Native American & Indigenous Religious Traditions (Spring 2022/2023/2024/2025/2026)

Foundations of Comparative Ethnic Studies (Fall 2020, Spring 2022/2023)

Coloniality, Historical Trauma, & Decolonial Healing (Spring 2021/2026)

Native American & Indigenous Religious Traditions (Spring 2021)



Indigenous Rights/ Red Power Movement (Fall 2024)

**Postdoctoral Fellow, CU Boulder**

Indigenous Thought & Theory (Fall 2019)

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Connecticut College**

Global Indigeneities: Religion and Resistance (Fall 2017/2015)

Native American Religious Traditions (Fall 2017/2016/2015)

Earth Justice: Indigenous Stewardship Around the Globe (Fall 2017/2016)

Personal Enlightenment and Social Justice (Spring 2017)

Chicanx/Latinx Religions and Spirituality (Spring 2018/2017)

Religion and Healing (Spring 2018/2017/2016)

Theories in the Study of Religion (Fall 2016/2015)

Lived Religion (Spring 2018/2016)

Religion and the Spirit of Politics (Spring 2016)

**Pedagogy Workshops**

2025 American Academy of Religion Fall Fridays WebinAAR (virtual)  
“Teaching with Native American and Indigenous Religions on Stolen Land.” Panelist,  
September 26. (also listed under public facing work)

2021 Villanova University, Theology and Religious Studies Department, Villanova, PA  
(virtual)  
“Global Religious Experience.” Reimagining the Classroom Experience. Anti-racist  
pedagogies workshop. Discussion Facilitator, March 12.

2017 Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket, CT  
“Critiques of Sustainability.” Social Justice and Sustainability research group. Workshop  
Facilitator, August 9.

2016 F.R.E.S.H. New London, New London, CT  
“Food Sovereignty in Native America.” Facilitated workshop for a local food justice  
program, which included their staff and summer youth cohort, July 15.

**SERVICE**

**Service to Profession**

2022 – present **Indigenous Religious Traditions Journal – Editorial Board Member**

2020 – present **Vitality of Indigenous Religions, Routledge Books – Series Editor**

2017 – 2023 **American Academy of Religion – Steering Committee**  
Native Traditions in the Americas Unit

2009 – 2015 **American Academy of Religion – Steering Committee**  
Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism Group

## **University Service**

2023 – Present **CU Boulder, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Committee**

2019 – Present **CU Boulder, Boulder Faculty Assembly and Diversity Committee**

2020 – 2021 **CU Boulder, Faculty Council Women’s Committee**

2020 – 2021 **CU Boulder, Community Safety Task Force on Police Oversight**

2017 – 2018 **Connecticut College, Faculty Development Seminar on Advising First Year Students**

Develops strategies for advising diverse first-year students.

2016 – 2018 **Connecticut College – Calendar Committee**

Sets academic calendar dates for the upcoming academic year.

2016 – 2018 **Connecticut College, M.E.Ch.A. – Faculty Adviser**

2016 – 2018 **Connecticut College, Diversity Coalition – Faculty Adviser**

Diversity Coalition is a student organization that mobilizes students against sexism/ racism/ homophobia/ transphobia through an intersectional framework.

2015 – 2018 **Connecticut College, S.H.E. program – Mentor**

Share, Hear, & Empower connects underrepresented first-year female students with underrepresented faculty and staff who mentor them for the academic year.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH**

2024 Broomfield High School, Broomfield, CO

“Healing Historical Trauma and Indigenous Religious Life.” Guest Lecture. Ethnic Studies Course, September 18.

2023 *The Arrow Journal* presents Compassionate Disruption (virtual)

On Behalf of the Biosphere. Panel discussion, November 13.

Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO

*We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies*, Tsering Yangzom Lama and Dawa Lokyitsang in conversation with Natalie Avalos, September 23.

2022 Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO

Skyscrapers: *Akia: The Other Side*, Norma Dunning in Conversation with Natalie Avalos, September 18.

2020 Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO (virtual)

Decolonizing Systems, Decolonizing Minds. Panel discussion, September 9.

Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO (virtual)

Antiracism in a System Built Upon Racism: Diverse Colorado Authors in Conversation,  
Panel discussion, June 14.

2019 Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO  
Wordscapes: Latinx Voices. Panel discussion, September 22.

## **LANGUAGES**

Literary and colloquial Tibetan  
Spanish  
French

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
American Studies Association  
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association  
Critical Ethnic Studies Association  
The Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies  
National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies  
Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social