

Abraham Francis

Environmental Science Officer for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Abraham Francis has a BS in Microbiology, 2014, and MS in Natural Resources, 2019, from Cornell University. His past experiences include community empowerment, engagement and research with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and a variety of other community-based organizations. His Masters' Thesis focused on applied research to develop a biocultural land stewardship strategy for existing and newly settled Native American Land Claims on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, Akwesasne. Currently, he works as the Environmental Science Officer for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne - Environment Program. The position allows him to develop and implement project that are inspired and directed by community needs as well as influenced by his research interests at the intersection environmental studies, Indigenous methodologies, community engagement, education, health, social services, law, and cultural foundations as a means for empowerment and healing within Indigenous Communities.

Keynote address:

The context-specific and strong relationships present between Indigenous Communities and land provide opportunities for community empowerment and meaningful engagement through research and approaches to caring for the land. The research presented engages the the Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) community of Akwesasne and draws on their context specificity, historical and environmental history and cultural context, to inform a biocultural forest stewardship strategy. The strategies developed draw on Akwesasronon (Akwesasne Community Member) voices, which convey land-based stories and knowledge and helps in understanding the context specificity of the complex connectivity of Indigenous relationships, knowledge, and values with the land. Furthermore, the research forms the foundations of an ever growing understanding of diverse Akwesasronon relationships with the land. The understandings gained will help the Akwesasne in protecting and caring for knowledge and the land, so future generations have access to the resources necessary to live healthy and happy lives.

Brittany McBeath

PhD student in Kinesiology & Health Studies,
Supervised by Dr Lucie Lévesque

Brittany is currently studying health promotion, completing her research in partnership with the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Project, under the supervision of Dr. Lucie Lévesque. She is also studying Kanyen'ké:ha Onkwawén:na through the Mohawk Language and Culture Certificate offered by Queen's University in partnership with Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na in Tyendinaga. Her Master's research explores diverse conceptualizations of wellness by Indigenous communities across Turtle Island. For her PhD research she hopes to bridge her current studies and explore the intersection of Indigenous language learning/revitalization and promoting health within community.

Kacey Dool

PhD student in Cultural Studies,
Supervised by Dr Sharday Mosurinjohn

As a self-identifying woman of Métis descent, in an era of diverse visions of 'reconciliation', I believe that visual and material culture enable the silenced to reclaim their voices, creating a resurgence of Indigenous Knowledges, communities, and culture. The potency of non-verbal communication, particularly in the face of linguistic and cultural boundaries, has inspired me to pursue interdisciplinary research. I ground my research in a recent travelling exhibition by the Métis (Cree/Irish Settler) artist entitled, "Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience," which contests, destabilizes, and reimagines hegemonic Christian settler portrayals of Canadian history, through an Indigenous lens.

Program	
8:30 - 8:45	Registration & Sign in
8:45 - 9:00	Ceremonial Opening Allen Doxtator, Cultural Advisor, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Queen's University
9:00 - 9:05	Welcome and Introduction to Keynote Dr. James Reynolds, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Queen's University
9:05 - 10:00	Keynote Address Abraham Francis, Environmental Science Officer for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
10:00 - 10:15	Morning Break
10:15 - 11:45	Graduate Studies Presentations Moderator: Dr James Reynolds Brittany McBeath Kacey Dool Panel Q&A
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 1:30	Breakout Group Discussions Moderator – Lindsay Marie Brant Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mofiyinfoluwa Badmos • Yasmine Djerbal • Antoinette Thornton • Lavie Williams • Vanessa McCourt • Heather Castleden • Wanda Beyer
1:30 - 2:00	Wrap-up and Closing Lindsay Marie Brant (CTL) Dr. James Reynolds (SGS)



Indigenous Research Collaborations Workshop

Friday 8th November 2019

JDUC, McLaughlin Hall, Queen's University

