

My life and research experiences here...



Clarita Lefthand-Begay (clarita@uw.edu)
November 3, 2014
Northwest Indian College's "What it means to be an Indigenous Scientist"
Seminar
Some slides deleted from this web version

Outline

- Educational background
 - Western education
- My family
 - Ancestors, parents and our future babies
- Environmental issues on tribal lands
- My Research
 - Love water
 - Love homelands
 - Love health

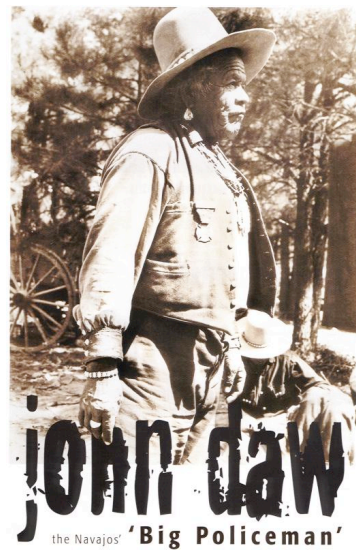
A brief history about me....

A brief history about me....

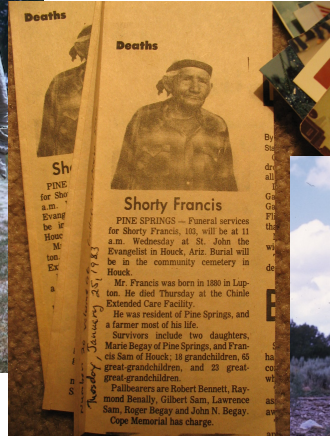
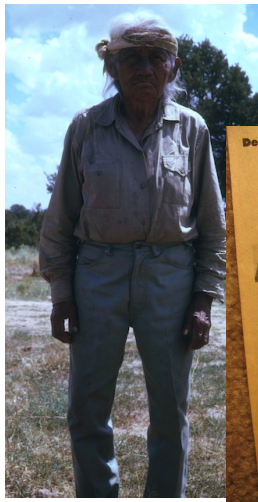


Before the university

Endurance



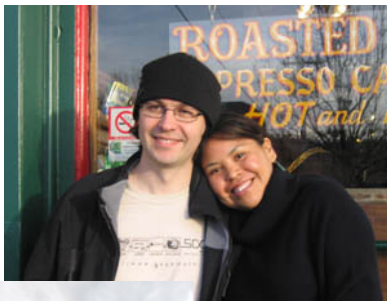
Generosity



Determination



Education



Support



**Future
generations
Dreams
Responsibility**



....Break....

- What skills and tools do you, as an Indigenous student, need in order to best serve your community?
 - Student answers:
 1. Transparent resources about the environmental issues happening on Indigenous lands
 2. Pedagogy that incorporates traditional knowledge and western sciences
 3. Information about how to build research labs on tribal communities
 - Students who are reading this online: Please feel free to send me your input on this question. Email me at Clarita@uw.edu and in the subject title write: "skills and tools I need".

Our Relationship with Water



Our Relationship with Water



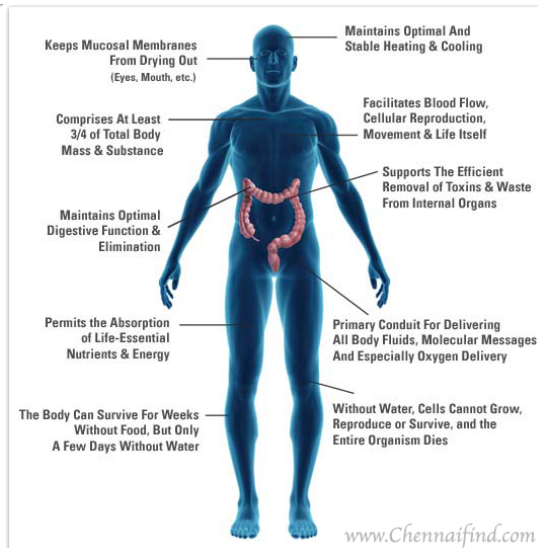
Our Relationship with Water



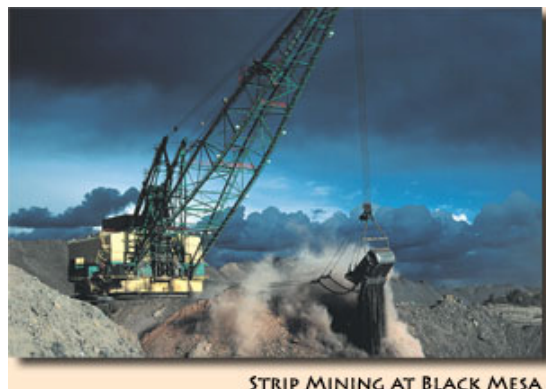
Our Relationship with Water



Benefits of Water in the body



Environmental Justice Issue in Indian Country

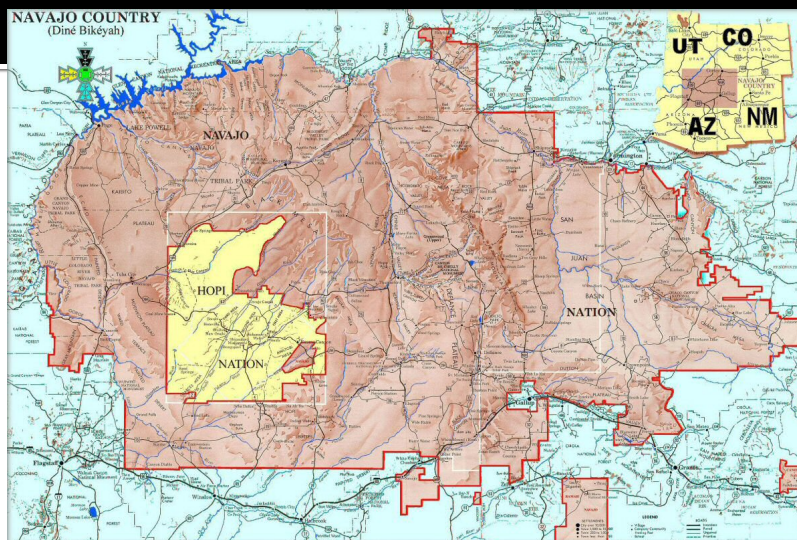
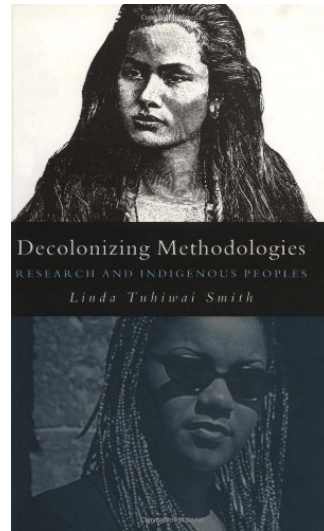


- 
- ~700 nations in the North American continent
 - In the US, Native American lands covers 4% of the land
 - 566 federally recognized tribes
 - Over 1,200 First Nations reserves are sprinkled over Canada

Decision-makers	Water security needs	Tribal Priorities ³	Values & worldviews	Tribe's goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Chairperson • Tribal Council • Natural resource department • Environmental Protection Agency • President of the U.S. • U.S. Congress • Elders • Community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality • Accessibility • Availability • Protection • Spiritual • Cultural • Economic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Knowledge • Tribal Land • Economic Development • Sustainability • Job creation • Gaming • Natural Resource management • Water quality and scarcity • Community Health • Climate Change • Social Development • Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future generations • Restraint and Balance • Responsibility • Children • Community • Sustainability • Reciprocity • Respect for all life • Mother Earth • Identity & Lands • Homelands • Do no more harm • Four directions • Sacredness of water • Relationships¹ • Respects for Elders¹ • Collective decision-making¹ • Healing from environment¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of environment² • Restoration of community • Restoration of tribal values • Protection of environment • Replenish surface vegetation • Work with state, advocacy groups, community, universities etc. • Avoid contamination from the beginning • Retain water • Reaffirm Indigenous traditional values • Heal from environment • Self-sufficiency ¹ • Protect Usual and Accustomed Lands • Collective decision-making grounded in Indigenous worldview¹ • Collective tribal ownership of solutions
Self-Determination: Platform from where Tribal nations make their decisions.				

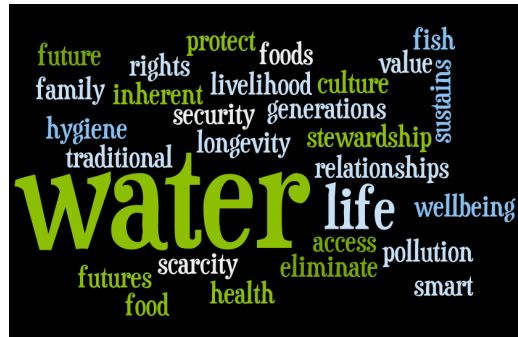
Indigenous Research Methodologies

The word itself “research” is probably one of the dirtiest words in the indigenous world’s vocabulary. When mentioned in many indigenous contexts, it stirs up silence, it conjures up bad memories, it raises a smile that is knowing and distrustful... The ways in which scientific research is implicated in the worst excesses of colonialism remains a powerful remembered history for many of the world’s colonised peoples (Smith, 1999).



Upcoming work....

- Indigenous Water Project



Thank you!
clarita@uw.edu