



THE 5TH ANNUAL  
HAUDENOSAUNEE CONFERENCE

MOVING BEYOND ID CARD INDIANS:  
THE SEARCH FOR NATIVE CITIZENRY

NOVEMBER 15, 2008



CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS LAW,  
GOVERNANCE & CITIZENSHIP  
Syracuse University College of Law



CRITICAL ISSUES TO THE HAUDENOSAUNEE PEOPLE AND NATIONS: AN UPDATE ON SALES TAX AND BORDER CROSSING

**Robert Odawi Porter** is a citizen (Heron Clan) of the Seneca Nation of Indians and was raised on its Allegany Territory in upstate New York. He is the son of Lana Redeye and the grandson of Leonard Redeye and the late Eleanor Bowen Redeye. He is currently Professor of Law and Dean's Research Scholar of Indigenous Nations Law at the Syracuse University College of Law. He is the founding director of the Center.

After graduating from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and economics, he attended Harvard Law School where he received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1989. Upon graduation, he joined the Washington, D.C. law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin. In private practice, Professor Porter focused on corporate law, particularly corporate mergers and acquisitions, securities and investment company regulation, and government affairs.

In 1991, Professor Porter was appointed as the first Attorney General of the Seneca Nation of Indians. In this position, he developed an in-house legal department to administer the Nation's legal affairs and exercised administrative authority over the Nation's law enforcement agencies. Also during this time he served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Buffalo School of Law and as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Tulsa College of Law.

In 1995, Professor Porter left his position with the Seneca Nation to become an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Kansas and an Adjunct Professor at Haskell Indian Nations University. At Kansas, he founded the Tribal Law and Government Center and received tenure and promotion to Professor of Law in 2000. In 1997, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Sac & Fox Nation Supreme Court. In 2002, Professor Porter left Kansas and joined the law faculty at the University of Iowa. And in 2003, he joined the law faculty at Syracuse University.



USING A CORE VALUES PARADIGM TO DEFINE THE CITIZEN'S ROLE IN A NATION: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF ROLE AND ROLE STRAIN AS SENECA AND SCIENTIST

**Tassy Parker**, PhD, RN, is Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Nursing; Associate Director, Research and Development, Center for Native American Health; and Assistant Dean, Office of Diversity, at the University of New Mexico - School of Medicine. A medical sociologist and registered nurse, Dr. Parker is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation. She belongs to the Beaver clan and was born and raised in the Burning Springs community on the Cattaraugus Territory in Western New York. Her community-based efforts include developing mentoring and cultural programming for incarcerated American Indian youth, partnering to improve off-reservation American Indian health, advocating for American Indian community health workers, and promoting history as a distinct and integrated dimension of indigenous health. Dr. Parker's previous research includes examining mental health conditions in American Indian primary care, investigating factors associated with American Indian teens' health perceptions, and examining mental/social/family health of incarcerated American Indian youth. She received national recognition for the latter investigation. Current research includes an NIAAA-funded study examining psychological distress as risk factor for American Indian maternal alcohol use, an NHLBI-funded study examining prevention of pediatric obesity and cardiovascular disease among American Indian children, a UNM-funded initiative establishing an off-reservation American Indian women's Community Advisory Board to examine cultural and personal beliefs about depression and depression care, and tribal-funded research that continues a study of historical trauma with her natal tribal community health department. Dr. Parker is a founding member and past co-chair of the cross-national Native Research Network; an executive committee member/mentor in the NIMH-funded Mentoring and Education Program (MEP); President of the Board of Directors, First Nations Community HealthSource (major provider of health services to the Albuquerque off-reservation Native American community); and is a strong and active health advocate for American Indians nationally through co-learning, service, and participatory research. At UNM, she is co-leading efforts to recognize and reward faculty community engaged scholarship. Dr. Parker serves as a primary research mentor for UNM American Indian medical students and numerous American Indian undergraduates, graduates, and junior faculty at UNM and other academic institutions nationally.



REQUIRE WHAT YOU WANT TO PRODUCE: INDIGENOUS CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA

**Scott Richard Lyons** (Leech Lake Ojibwe) is Assistant Professor of English and member of the Native American Studies faculty at Syracuse University.



CONSTRUCTIONS OF MODES OF IDENTITY: GENERAL PERSPECTIVES FROM NATIVE AMERICA AND THE MAINSTREAM

**Michael Taylor** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies at Colgate University. Is a Seneca from the Allegany Territory and a member of the Wolf Clan.



UNDERSTANDING THE HAUDENOSAUNEE IDENTITY THROUGH THE IROQUOIS COSMOLOGY PART II: MOVING BEYOND THE CARD-CARRYING IROQUOIS INDIAN IDENTITY.

**Kevin J. White**, PhD (Akwesasne Mohawk) is an Assistant Professor of Native American & American Studies at SUNY Oswego. It is his hope that the disconnect between Indigenous peoples and others will become a generational divide rather than a racial divide through education. His passion is helping Native American students achieve their dreams, and maintain their connections to community. He is a columnist for Indian Country Today. His dissertation was an exploration of the published texts of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Creation narratives.



HAUDENOSAUNEE CITIZENSHIP THROUGH THE LENS OF AN ANTI-INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY MOVEMENT: DISCOURSES OF EQUALITY, ASSIMILATION, AND OPPRESSION

**Meghan Y. McCune** is currently a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at Michigan State University and teaches anthropology courses at both Michigan State University and Alma College. This spring she will defend her dissertation titled "Sovereign Land: Law, Power, and the Construction of Haudenosaunee Rights." Meghan has worked with Native communities for more than seven years, focusing on the ongoing challenges to Haudenosaunee/Iroquois sovereignty in New York State. In her research, Meghan is particularly interested in non-Native interpretations of Indian law and sovereignty; her doctoral research examines the influence of anti-Indian sovereignty groups on current legal cases that address the exercise of tribal sovereignty. Meghan also served on the Board of Directors for Strengthening Haudenosaunee Relations through Education (SHARE). SHARE was a grassroots organization comprised of Native and non-Native community members who sought to promote positive education on issues surrounding the Cayuga Indian Nations' 64,000 acre land claim in Central New York State. While on the board, Meghan worked with members of the Cayuga Nation, local community members, and academics to organize educational events and to purchase a 70 acre organic farm within the land claim region for the Cayugas.