



ELSI FRIDAY FORUM

ELSI Friday Forum

Friday, October 11, 2024 12-1:30 PM ET US/9-10:30 AM PT

Session Title:

The Summer internship for INdigenous peoples in Genomics – Beyond Settler Science

Date and time: Friday, October 11, 2024 | 12pm ET US / 9am PT US

Moderator: Kim TallBear, PhD

Presenter: Elizabeth Nelson, PhD

Presenter: Joseph Yracheta, MS, DrPHc

CERA Coordinator: Mildred Cho, PhD

Staff: [Ashlin Amano](#), [David Lamb](#), [Faryn Fairweather](#), [Grace Morris](#)

[BIOGRAPHIES]

Moderator: Kim TallBear, PhD

Kim TallBear (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate) is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience, and Society, Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta. She is the author of *Native American DNA: Tribal Belonging and the False Promise of Genetic Science*. In addition to studying genome science disruptions to Indigenous self-definitions, Dr. TallBear studies colonial disruptions to Indigenous sexual relations. She is a regular panelist on the Media Indigena podcast. She is also a regular media commentator on topics including Indigenous peoples, science, and technology; and Indigenous sexualities. You can also follow her Substack newsletter, *Unsettle: Indigenous affairs, cultural politics & (de)colonization* at <https://kimtallbear.substack.com>.

Panelist: Elizabeth Nelson, PhD

Elizabeth A. Nelson (Betsy) is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (Anishinaabe) and an Assistant Professor at SMU in Dallas, TX. She has been involved with the Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples in Genomics for three years. Betsy received her Ph.D.



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from the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History and recently completed a postdoc at Institut Pasteur (Paris). With a multidisciplinary background in anthropology, biomedical science, and paleogenomics, she is dedicated to uncovering the complex histories of infectious diseases.

Her work bridges science and humanities by integrating genetic data with socio-cultural and political contexts to explore the evolution of microbes and their impact on human societies over time. Her expertise in genomics allows her to analyze DNA from environmental, archaeological, and historical samples, revealing long-term patterns of microbial evolution and deconstructing colonial narratives of Indigenous histories. Her research emphasizes the influence of sociopolitical factors on pathogen dynamics, contributing to a deeper understanding of how diseases are socially perceived, politically leveraged, and continue to persist.

By applying genomic tools to Indigenous science, Betsy informs health strategies and advocates for inclusive scientific practices. She advocates for challenging Western frameworks by incorporating Indigenous perspectives, bringing genomic methods into community spaces led by Indigenous people, and transforming institutional labs into spaces where Indigenous knowledge systems shape scientific processes.

Link to Betsy's full bio: <https://singcanada.wpenginepowered.com/team/elizabeth-nelson/>

Panelist: Joseph Yracheta, MS, DrPHc

Mr. Yracheta holds an MS in Pharmacogenomics and is a candidate for a DrPH in Environmental Health Sciences and Engineering. He is an Amerindigenous scientist (P'urhépecha from Mexico), and Executive Director of the Native BioData Consortium. Native Bio resides within the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation (Sioux) of South Dakota. Mr. Yracheta has been a bench scientist since 1990, working across many biomedical disciplines. He strives to achieve Indigenous Data Sovereignty by “wearing many research hats” of law, ethics, and the deconstruction of systemic racism. He strives to secure data for Indigenous economic and cultural sustainability.

Link to Joe's full bio: <https://nativebio.org/about-us/board/>



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[FROM CERA]

ELSIhub Collections are essential reading lists on fundamental or emerging topics in ELSI, curated and explained by expert collection editors. Please use the link to access “Biocolonialism and Other “Western”-Centered Bioethical Failures Onto Indigenous Peoples" curated by Krystal S. Tsosie, PhD, MPH, MA, Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University; Co-Founder, ELSI and Policy Director, Native BioData Consortium.

<https://doi.org/10.25936/r10w-n850>

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