

CALL FOR PAPERS

GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM IN NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS STUDIES

October 13, 2026, Radboud University, Nijmegen

On 12 and 13 October 2026, we are organizing on- and off-campus events to acknowledge North American Indigenous Peoples Day at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Over the course of two days, we will reflect on the importance and significance of treaty rights to Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island, and on how they shape North American Indigenous studies. With North American Indigenous guests, including Tanana Athabascan poet and scholar Dr. Dian Million (University of Washington), we will learn about Indigenous peoples' cultural continuity and resistance against the institutionalized violence of settler colonialism, for example through collective activism to protect and maintain their treaty rights. We will also find out more about the ways they are celebrating and continuing their knowledges, cultures, and ways of living. The first day of the event will consist of public lectures and discussions and a screening of the well-received documentary [Fish War](#) (2024), while the second day will be a symposium for PhD-candidates, MA students, and early career researchers.

Long before the United States and Canada existed as settler nations, Indigenous peoples made treaties and agreements with one another to maintain diplomatic relationships. Indigenous sovereignties predate settler colonialism on Turtle Island, and even today, treaties affirm and protect relations and responsibilities towards peoples, animals, and nature. Lakota and Dakota activist Wasté Win Young reminds us that “treaties are not an ‘Indian problem’; they are everyone’s problem. Signed responsibility of non-Natives: an even older document, the US Constitution, regards treaties as ‘the supreme law of the land’” (quoted in *Our History Is the Future* by Nick Estes). However, the settler governments of the U.S. and Canada continuously threaten and undermine Indigenous sovereignties by breaking treaties made with Indigenous peoples, not only during their periods of westward “expansion,” but still today, for instance in constructing pipelines such as the Dakota Access Pipeline, operational since 2017.

With our invited speakers, participants will reflect on the enduring importance and significance of treaty rights to North American Indigenous peoples and the role the treaties play in North American Indigenous Studies. There will be a workshop in the morning (more information to follow) during which we will consider the following key questions: How do North American Indigenous scholars, authors, scientists, and artists protect their tribal sovereignty and treaty rights against the renewed threats of settler colonialism and exploitation? How does research in North American Indigenous studies contribute to these sovereignty struggles, and what role do non-Indigenous scholars have? How can we celebrate and uplift Indigenous peoples' knowledges, arts, and sovereignties from Europe? What can ethical transatlantic collaborations look like?

What methodologies should we adopt for our research in/with North American Indigenous studies?

In the afternoon, PhD-candidates, MA students, and early career researchers will have a chance **to present their work-in-progress**. We welcome 200-word abstracts for short presentations (max. 15 minutes) on works-in-progress — by students, PhD-Candidates, or early career scholars working in or with Indigenous Studies — preferably but not necessarily related to the theme of the symposium. Presenters will be able to receive feedback and help from our invited speakers and from other participants.

During a dedicated session, symposium participants will also have the opportunity to take part in a discussion that will inform the creation of our new initiative, the North American Indigenous Studies Circle, which will serve as a network for collaboration, training, and mutual support that connects students, PhD-candidates, and early-career researchers based in the Netherlands and Europe for the purpose of strengthening their training in North American Indigenous Studies. We encourage (but don't require) the continued involvement of participants as future members of the Circle.

Please send your 200-word abstract proposal for a work-in-progress presentation in a PDF file along with a brief biographical statement (100 words) to the organizing team at aybueke.karabiyik@ru.nl **no later than August 30, 2026**.

Questions regarding the event or the symposium can be sent to aybueke.karabiyik@ru.nl.

Applicants will receive a notification of approval or rejection **by September 15, 2026**.