

Through Their Own Voices: Indigeneity and Tourism

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Join Indigenous/First Nations and non-Indigenous researchers in a Talking Circle to respectfully share perspectives and experiences of working with Indigenous peoples in tourism. Talking Circles are variously described and emphasizes sharing and kinship, as well as enabling deferential and non-judgmental communication. Talking Circles are rare in conventional scholarly conference settings, and employed here as a tool for sharing and promoting open, inclusive and unprejudiced discourses. This approach is taken to reinforce the context upon which the marginalization of Indigenous peoples takes place more broadly, and via the expropriation of Indigenous cultural heritage for tourism.

The overarching aim is to share a global approach to knowledge exchange and perspective taking, and speak to and about the barriers and exclusion of Indigenous/First Nations peoples in tourism, while devising the means and methods of finding the spaces to repair and reinforce relationships and frameworks. To lead the Talking Circle approach of two-way learning, we open the session with short films and discuss consent and the right to say no from Indigenous Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, Asian, Pacific Islander, African and Latin American perspectives. Furthermore, we examine the privilege of conference geographies and underline how this continues marginalization processes.

The session will then be opened to participants to discuss how we as scholars shape Indigenous/First Nations tourism futures and amplify Indigenous/First Nations voices, and foster leadership to shift critical studies into more positive and inclusive terrain. Importantly, we pay our respects to Indigenous/First Nations peoples and their elders, past, present and emerging. Finally, in a spirit of friendship and goodwill, we would like to share a drink at the end of the workshop.