

Recoding Relationality: Indigenous New Media & Critical Digital Humanities

@davegaertner



IMAGE: JOSEPH
TEKARONIAKE LAZARE

Skins 6.0 (Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace)

A pixelated character with brown skin, black hair, and a white tunic, holding a green plant. The character is rendered in a low-resolution, blocky style with a white outline. The background is a bright cyan color with a dark, dotted pattern at the top and bottom. The bottom of the image features a green, pixelated landscape.

HE AU HOU
TELLING MO'OLELO THROUGH VIDEO GAMES 2

JULY 5 - JULY 28
SEATS ARE LIMITED. APPLY TODAY!

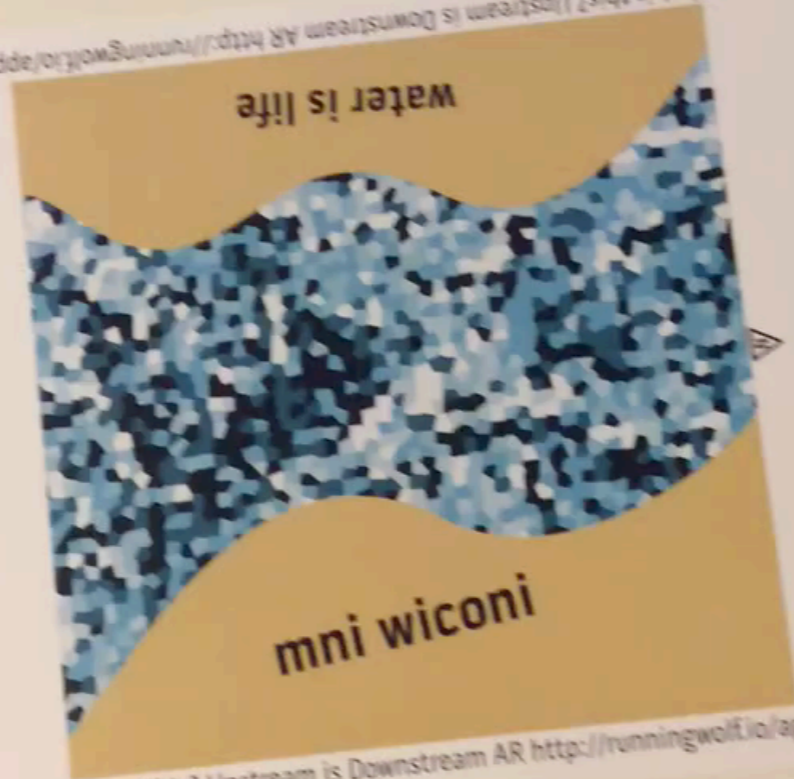
KANAEOKANA.NET/VIDEOGAMES

Amanda Strong (Métis)

FOUR FACES OF THE MOON



What is this? Upstream is Downstream AR <http://runningwolf.io/app>



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Nicole Cardinal

Itinerary

- ✦ Who am I and what is DH?
- ✦ Towards a Critical Digital Humanities
- ✦ *God's Lake Narrows* and *CyberPowWow*



The Institute for
Critical Indigenous Studies
University of British Columbia

Symposium for Indigenous New Media (#SINM18)

<https://indigenousnewmedia.wordpress.com>



www.hastac2019.org



HASTAC 2019

"Decolonizing Technologies, Reprogramming Education"

Unceded Musqueam Territory

UBC Vancouver

16-18 May 2019

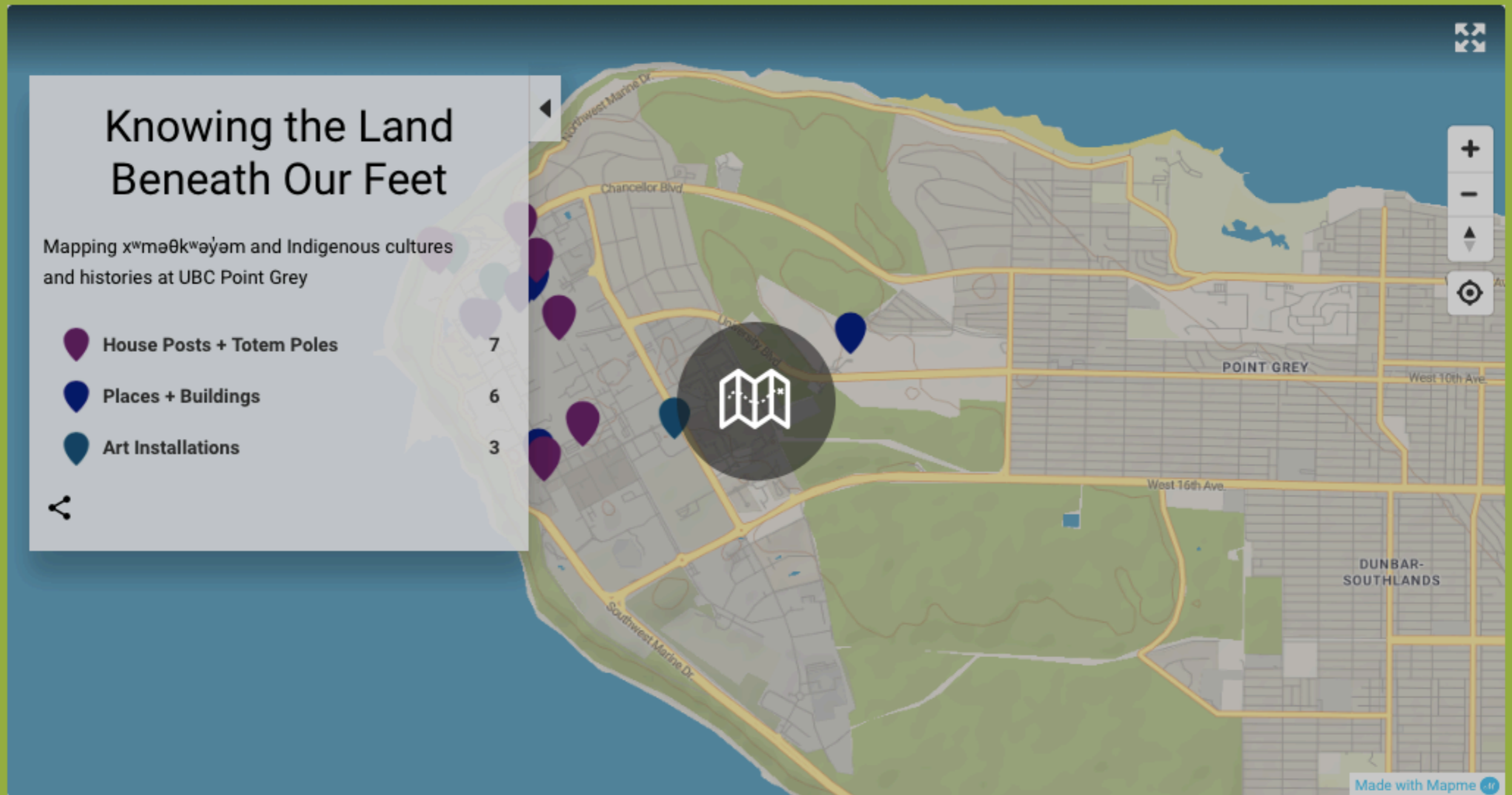
[cfp](#) [register](#) [schedule](#) [travel](#)

What is DH?

- The study and application of digital tools as they pertain to academic pursuits in the Social Science & Humanities.



Start learning with the map



INDIGITIZATION: TRAINING WEEK 2015

[Browse Items](#)
[Browse Collections](#)
[Contribute an Item](#)


2015 Training Program Group Photo

Welcome! This digital exhibition features photographs from the 2015 Indigitization Summer Training Program. Photos included in the exhibition are of the workshops held over the course of the training week, the first lunch of the week at the First Nations Longhouse, a tour of Xwi7xwa Library, a talk on the Mukurtu Content Management System by Michael Wynne, the Write to Read event with Gordon Yusko, and a lunch at the Museum of Anthropology. The photos in this site reflect the important work and learning achieved by program participants from various communities and organizations seeking to build

FEATURED ITEM

Indigitization, *Longhouse
Introductions with Linc
Kesler #2*

FEATURED COLLECTION XWI7XWA LIBRARY TOUR



Kim Lawson guides the 2015 summer training week participants through the Xwi7xwa Library and tells them about their collections and services.

Interested in Indigenous issues, current events and entertainment?
Down for decolonization?
Want to join a rad community?



UNCEDDED AIRWAVES
By CITR's Indigenous Collective

We're looking for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to
contribute to our weekly program!
Everyone is welcome! No experience necessary!

Listen to Unceded Airwaves
Mondays 11 am -12 pm at 101.9FM or citr.ca
To join, email volunteer@citr.ca

Unceded Airwaves



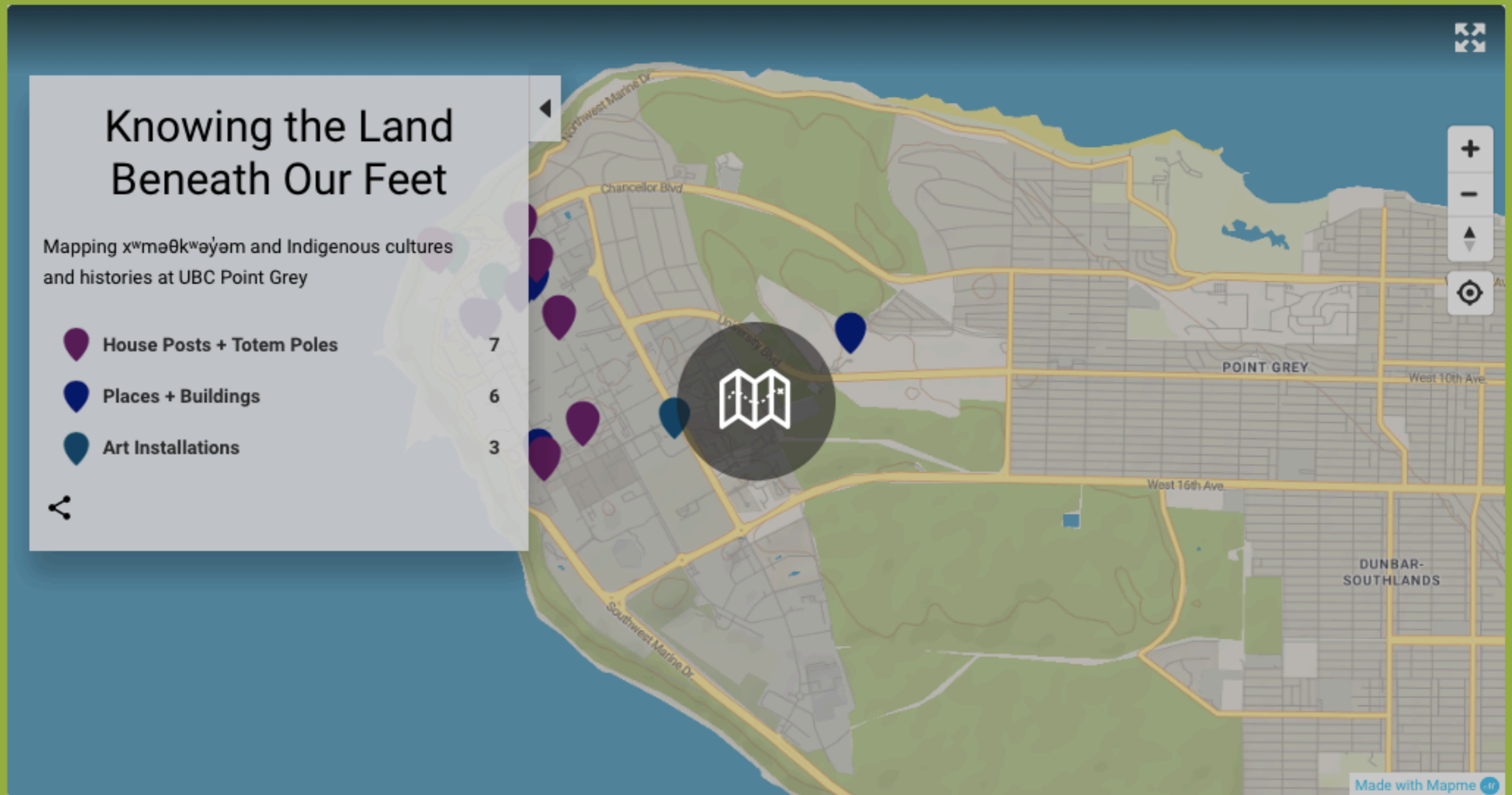
#UncededMusic #UncededEvents

Archives at:

<https://www.citr.ca/radio/unceded-airwaves/>



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Unceded Airwaves



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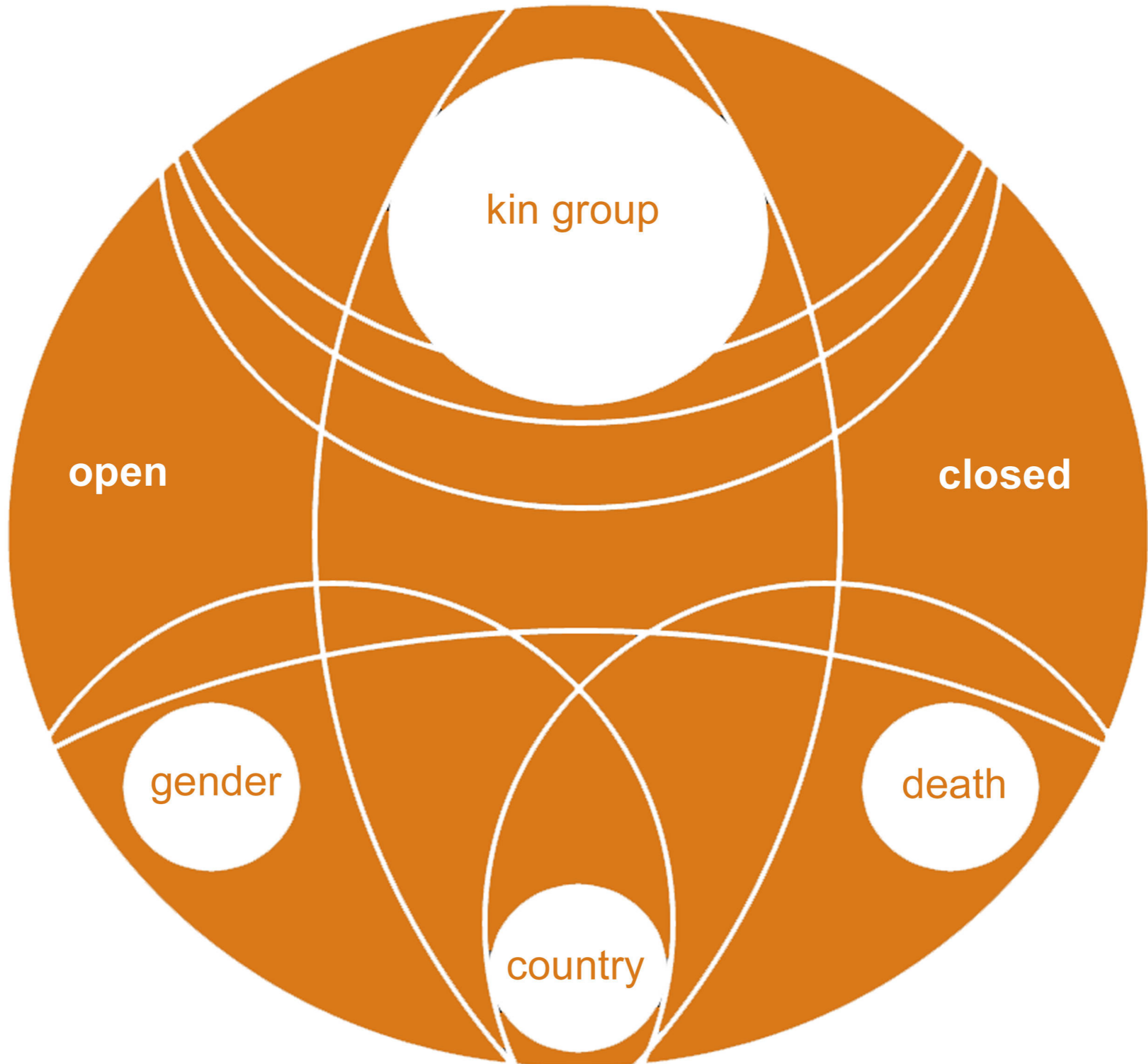
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Critical DH

- ✦ Critical DH explores the intersections between **place**, **power**, and **digital technologies**. It foregrounds critical perspectives of feminist, queer, ethnic, and **Indigenous studies** in the study, development, and application of DH tools and methodologies.

#TransformDH



COLORED CONVENTIONS

BRINGING NINETEENTH-CENTURY BLACK ORGANIZING TO DIGITAL LIFE



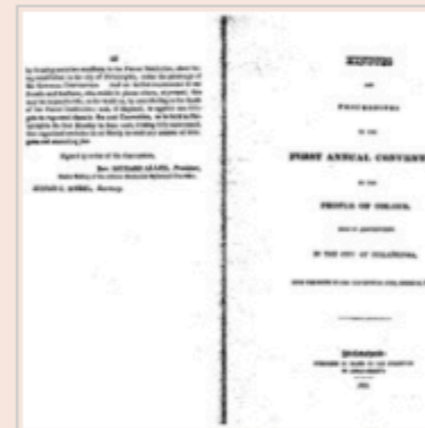
ABOUT THE COLORED CONVENTIONS

From 1830 until the 1890s, already free and once captive Black people came together in state and national political meetings called "Colored Conventions." Before the War, they strategized about how to achieve educational, labor and legal justice at a moment when Black rights were constricting nationally and locally. After the War, their numbers swelled as they continued to mobilize to ensure that Black citizenship rights and safety, Black labor rights and land, Black education and institutions would be protected under the law.

The delegates to these meetings included the most well-known, if mostly male, writers, organizers, church leaders, newspaper editors, and entrepreneurs in the canon of early African-American leadership —and thousands whose names and histories have long been forgotten. What is left of this phenomenal effort are rare proceedings, newspaper coverage, and petitions that have never before been collected in one place.

This project seeks to not only learn about the lives of male delegates, the places where they met and the social networks that they created, but also to account for the crucial work done by Black women in the

TRANSCRIBE MINUTES

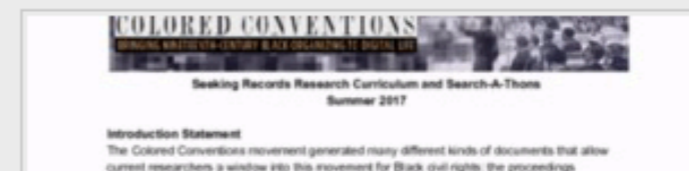


[Help transcribe](#) the minutes of the Colored Conventions!

- [Click here for minutes of Conventions held in A.M.E. Churches](#)
- [Click here for minutes of Conventions held in Baptist Churches](#)

FEATURED ITEMS

[Seeking Records](#)



Introduction Statement

The Colored Conventions movement generated many different kinds of documents that allow current researchers a window into this movement for Black civil rights: the proceedings



INDIAN



AND



COWBOY



MEDIA WITH SPIRIT & INTENT

Towards Critical DH

- ✦ “Sometimes people frame calls for DH to engage more with race and gender as a kind of philanthropic activity; won’t you please consider the poor women and people of color? But that is wrong.

DH needs scholarly expertise in critical race theory, feminist and queer theory, and other interrogations of structures of power in order to develop models of the world that have any relevance to people’s lived experience. Truly, it is the most complicated, challenging computing problem I can imagine, and DH hasn’t even begun yet to take it on.”

—Miriam Posner, “What’s Next: The Radical, Unrealized Potential of Digital Humanities”

Kevin Lee Burton, God's Lake Narrows (2011)



Data Sovereignty

- Data sovereignty is “linked with indigenous peoples’ right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as their right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over these.”
 - Tahu Kukutai and John Taylor, *Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Towards an Agenda*

Kevin Lee Burton, God's Lake Narrows (2011)



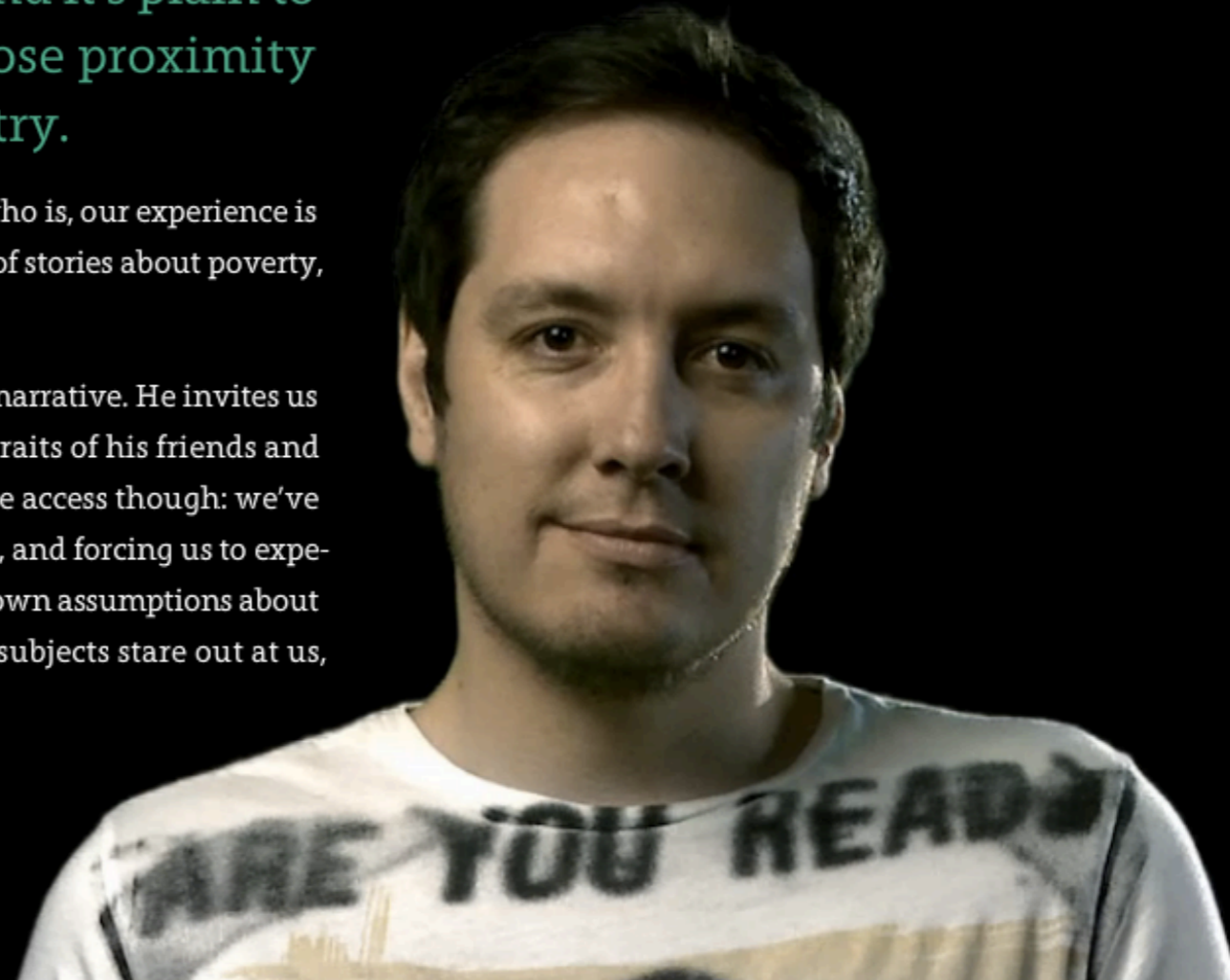
[Explore](#)[Playlists](#)[Channels](#)[Blog](#)[Interactive](#)[Education](#)[Digital Boutique](#)[Search](#)[Help](#)[Français](#)

ABOUT THE STORY

Spend a bit of time looking at a map and it's plain to see that many reserves are within close proximity to cities and towns all over this country.

For those of us who aren't from one, or don't know someone who is, our experience is limited to what we see and hear on the news: an endless loop of stories about poverty, illness, abuse and death.

Winnipeg artist Kevin Lee Burton is looking to reposition that narrative. He invites us to see 'reserve reality' as he knows it by showing us raw portraits of his friends and family members and their homes. He doesn't just blithely give access though: we've got to earn our way in. By juxtaposing exteriors with interiors, and forcing us to experience one before the other, Burton compels us to question our own assumptions about reserve life. The view is anything but voyeuristic: Burton's subjects stare out at us, storied, self-made, engaged.



God's Lake Narrows

I grew up here. It's one of 3,063 reserves in Canada, located way up in the northern forest of Manitoba. We don't even have road access in the summer.

If you're in Vancouver, you'd be 2,040 km away from God's Lake. All things considered I'm going to bet you've never visited.

But let's talk a bit about proximity. The closest reserve to Vancouver is 4.9 km. If you're not an Indian, you've probably never been there either.

WORDS BY Kevin Lee Burton

CREATED BY Alicia Smith & Kevin Lee Burton

SOUND COMPOSITION BY Christine Fellows

[Read the story](#)

[Grid view](#)

God's Lake Narrows

I grew up here. It's one of 3,063 reserves in Canada, located way up in the northern forest of Manitoba. We don't even have road access in the summer.

If you're in Melbourne, you'd be 15,247 km away from God's Lake. All things considered I'm going to bet you've never visited.

But let's talk a bit about proximity. The closest reserve to Melbourne is 12,838 km. If you're not an Indian, you've probably never been there either.

WORDS BY Kevin Lee Burton

CREATED BY Alicia Smith & Kevin Lee Burton

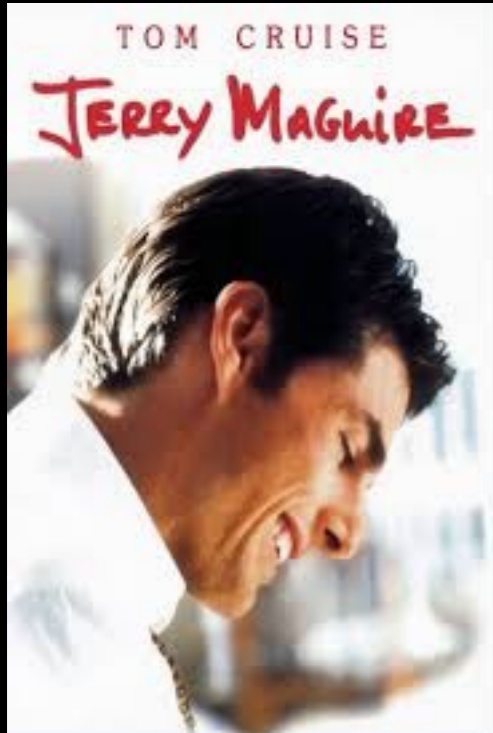
SOUND COMPOSITION BY Christine Fellows

[Read the story](#)

[Grid view](#)



1996



1996



Loretta Todd, "Aboriginal Narratives in Cyberspace."
Immersed in Technology: Art and Virtual Environments,
Mary Anne Moser, ed. Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1996.



Skawennati. *CyberPowWow*. 1996-2004. Web.

CyberPowWow



thePalace.com

Log
 Users
 Rooms
 Help
 Avatar
 Events
 Sound
 About

Jackyl hey all

 Jackyl help

 ym eman si tak: okay if u insist

 morpheus: hey all

 Duplicitous Incongruity [p]: i dont really insist...it was more of an anecdote

Mansion

CBS
Visit the
NEW Palaces!



(demon)(~<coalie>~)

chicka69

I'll Be Right Back
casey

Sk8ter13

JK&JD

Dreams (ARE MADE OF THIS)

laura 2

but a social relation
among people
mediated by images

an AV

NOT an AV

The spectacle is not
a collection of
images

generation.Net Le Palace MexChat Horizontes

Red Room

People: 10/229

Mansion



Skawennati

- “CyberPowWow started off as a virtual exhibition and chat space that would dispel the myth that Native artists didn't (or couldn't!?) use technology in their work. In addition to that, we wanted to claim for ourselves a little corner of cyberspace that we could nurture and grow in the way we wanted.”
- “A Chatroom is worth a Thousand Words”

Skawennati, CyberPowWow (1996-2004)

The screenshot displays the CyberPowWow virtual world interface. At the top, a menu bar includes File, Edit, Options, Avatars, Bookmarks, and Help. The system tray shows the time as 5:45 PM, the US flag, and the Palace logo.

On the left, there are two panels:

- Room List:** A list of rooms with their respective user counts. The room "Git yer cowgirl avatar here!" is highlighted with 8 users.
- User List:** A list of users in the room, including flat_dog, jasper, jd, laura, rhubarb, xox, yinarr, redbird, Tamara, pomba, hoodwink, Anog!te, and chag00sh.

The main 3D environment features a yellowish-green landscape with stylized mountains. Several avatars are visible, including "jasper" (a blue sphere), "joe" (a Native American figure), "FishyFish" (a Native American figure), "Chris" (a Native American figure), "brave orchid" (a Native American figure), "chag00sh" (a green sphere), and "Tamara" (a green sphere). A speech bubble from "brave orchid" says "it will take you to my website".

At the bottom, there is a chat window titled "jasper" showing a conversation:

```
brave orchid: appropriations of first nations cultures
brave orchid: made the conquest easier
catherine: is xox who i think it is?
brave orchid: anyways,
xox: :everyone is pauline johnson
brave orchid: i wrote an essay for cpw
"joe": creepy huh
brave orchid: about pictures and the stories they tell
xox: come into the room you folks in the corner
brave orchid: and the ones they don't
brave orchid: so if you click on the gif animation of the smoke
catherine: what are you all talking about?
brave orchid: signal on top of the mountain,
brave orchid: it will take you to my website
```



FNSP

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 3.2 Final//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>home</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY TEXT="#FFF8FF" LINK="#FFF8FF" VLINK="#FFF8FF" ALINK="#FF21B9" BGCOLOR="#00
<CENTER>
<TABLE WIDTH="512" HEIGHT="384" CELLPADDING="0" CELLSPACING="0">
  <TR>
    <TD>
      <IMG SRC="images/home.gif" WIDTH="54" HEIGHT="98" BORDER="0" VSPACE="20" ALT="
      <BR>
      <BR>
      <FONT FACE="Arial,Helvetica,Courier" SIZE="+1">
      <BR>
        now it seems i spend
        so much of my time
        writing in secret
        hidden languages
        that only
        a few people
        at the source
        can actually read
        but the meaning
        of which
        many can.
      <BR>
      <A HREF="home.html">home</A></FONT><BR>
    </TD>
  </TR>
</TABLE>
</CENTER></BODY></HTML>
```

FNSP

<what i do and what I really mean>

People: 1/1



Ahasiw1

People: 1/1





Loretta Todd

- ✦ “Will cyberspace enable old knowledge to be experienced and expanded or will cyberspace create the present anew each day, so that there never again is tradition or a past?”

“Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace”

Amanda Strong (Métis)

FOUR FACES OF THE MOON



Thank you!

@davegaertner
davidgaertner.com

Slides available at
novelalliances.com