2022 Doing Research in Indigenous Communities
Being a Good Relative in Research
Panelist, Guest Speaker, and Moderator Biographies

Agnes Attakai, MPA, a member of the Dine (Navajo) Nation, was raised on both the Dine homelands in Arizona and the urban California suburbs. She currently works as the Director of Health Disparities Outreach and Prevention Education for the Center for Rural Health at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Within the College of Medicine, she is Program Manager for the American Indian Research Center for Health, managing the Indians into Medicine, Pima County Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) and Leadership in Health Equity for American Indian Health Research & Development (LEAD) programs. Agnes has a Master of Public Administration degree and a Public Health Training Certificate for American Indian Health Professionals from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Katrina Claw is an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in the Department of Biomedical Informatics. Broadly, her research program focuses on personalizing medicine, pharmacogenomics, and the ethical, legal, social, and cultural implications of genomic research with American Indian/Alaska Native and other Indigenous communities. At the core of her research is using community-engaged approaches and ethical frameworks throughout the research process. Dr. Claw grew up on the Navajo Nation and is an enrolled member of the Navajo (Diné) tribe. She obtained her BS in biology and BA in anthropology at Arizona State University, and her PhD in genome sciences at the University of Washington.

Kathleen (Kate) A. Fox, Ph.D. is a Professor at Arizona State University in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She is also the Founder and Director of the Research on Violent Victimization Lab. She earned her Ph.D. in Criminology, Law & Society from the University of Florida. Her research centers on violent victimization
among underserved populations with a focus on Indigenous peoples. Fox conducts community-based research in partnership with Indigenous community members, legislators, and students to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples.

**Angela Gonzales** (Hopi) is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. As a community-engaged, interdisciplinary scholar, her research interests cut across and integrate the fields of Sociology, Indigenous Studies, and Public Health. Over the past two decades, she has engaged in a number of community-based research projects in tribal communities. Her research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and the Ford and Russell Sage Foundations. Gonzales holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University, a master’s degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside. As an enrolled member of the Hopi Tribe, she is committed to research that incorporates community-based participatory action research methods to create relationships of trust and reciprocity between tribal partners and academic researchers.

**Deborah Helitzer** is dean and professor of the College of Health Solutions (CHS) at Arizona State University. Dr. Helitzer leads a vibrant interdisciplinary college of about 7,300 students enrolled in 19 undergraduate and 23 graduate health-related degree programs on seven campuses and online. Under her guidance, CHS is committed to its mission to translate health research into practice and prepare tomorrow’s health workforce to address the challenges facing people and communities.

With more than 40 years of experience in health and higher education, Helitzer has held institutional leadership positions since 2005 at the University of New Mexico (UNM) and ASU. Prior to joining ASU in 2017, Helitzer was Founding Dean of the College of Population Health at UNM, where she led the development and implementation of the nation’s first undergraduate degree in population health.

As a scholar, Helitzer’s research focuses on health outcome improvements through interventions in communities and in clinical settings. She has collaborated with researchers studying diabetes, injury prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, cancer, and obesity prevention.

Since 2009, Helitzer has worked to address the needs for mentorship and career development of women faculty in academic medical centers. She has been an author on more than 100 publications, three books and eight book chapters and has led or significantly contributed to over $65 million of population health research.

She earned her Doctor of Science in International Health from The Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and B.A. in Communications from Washington University in St. Louis.
E.J. John is the Policy and Research Analyst at the American Indian Policy Institute at Arizona State University. He is a member of the Navajo Nation from Vanderwagen, New Mexico. He received his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2016 with a concentration in Indian Law. Prior to that, E.J. received his Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico in 2013. Before coming to the AIPI, E.J. worked for the Navajo Nation in the Office of Navajo Government Development where he worked on Tribal government reform and policy development.

Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, Hopi Tribal member, Founder and Executive Director of Honwunsi Consulting Services, LLC, CEO of Omauw Resource Center, 501c3, Associate with the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College, Tribal Liaison/Study Coordinator for the Arizona State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Ad Hoc Committee and Director of Communication Engagement with ASU Research on Violent Victimization Lab. Implemented Arizona’s Missing Person’s & Trafficking Recovery Program. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion from Northern Arizona University and Master’s in Criminal Justice with an Emphasis in Legal Studies from Grand Canyon University. With over 20 years of progressive experience augmented by a strong background in victim service program development and implementation, including policy development. Grant proposal writing and financial management. Effective in coordination and collaboration with Indigenous Leaders and Communities. Subject matter expert, educator, and trainer on victim service implementation, human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual violence, Missing & Murdered Indigenous People, and other related topics. Her partnerships expand throughout the United States and Alaska to assist with improvements of health and wellness of Indigenous People.

Allison Kelliher, MD, is Koyukon Athabascan, Dena, from Nome, Alaska. She is the Director of the American Indian Collaborative Research Network (AICoRN), a Practice-Based Research Network at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences where she is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family & Community Medicine. She also serves as faculty at the University of Washington School of Medicine and University of Alaska Anchorage and serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of American Indian Physicians. She is the first and only physician trained as a Traditional Healer in a Tribal Health setting and weaves this into her practice as a Family and Integrative Physician. She was honored as the University of Alaska Fairbanks Alumnus of the year 2022 and recently published a chapter in a textbook Walking Together, Working Together Engaging Wisdom for Indigenous Well-Being.
Jacob Moore (Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, Lakota, Dakota), Associate Vice President of Tribal Relations, is responsible for the intergovernmental relations between Arizona State University and tribal nations and communities. Previously, Jacob Moore was managing partner for Generation Seven Strategic Partners, LLC, and also worked as an Economic Development Analyst and Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Jacob previously served on the Arizona State Board of Education, where he had served as president once and vice president twice. Mr. Moore is currently on the board of directors for the Arizona Community Foundation, the ASU Morrison Institute, WestEd, and the Arizona Minority Education Policy Analysis Center (AMEPAC). Mr. Moore earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Executive MBA from Arizona State University’s W.P. Carey College of Business. Jacob is an enrolled member of the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Sally C. Morton is the executive vice president of Arizona State University’s Knowledge Enterprise, which is responsible for the University’s research and economic development ecosystem. Morton advances research priorities, oversees ASU’s transdisciplinary institutes and initiatives, and drives corporate engagement and strategic partnerships, technology transfer, and international development. She is a professor in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences and the College of Health Solutions.

Morton’s career has spanned both higher education and industry including being dean of the College of Science at Virginia Tech, chair of biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh, vice president for statistics and epidemiology at RTI International and head of the RAND Corporation’s Statistics Group. She is internationally recognized in the use of statistics and data science to help patients, their families and providers make better health care decisions. Morton received a PhD in statistics from Stanford University.
Melissa K. Nelson (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) is an Indigenous ecologist and scholar-activist who joined ASU in 2020. For over 30 years she has worked for Indigenous rights, biocultural revitalization, and the protection of Native lands. Formerly a professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University and CEO of the Cultural Conservancy, she is now focused on leading an Indigenous Sustainability agenda at ASU with Native graduate students, faculty, peers, and communities. Dr. Nelson is the lead for the Indigenous Knowledges focal area of the Global Futures Laboratory. She is passionate about Indigenous food sovereignty, land rematriation, and uplifting Indigenous knowledges through research partnerships, publications, media, and innovative land protection. She is a contributor and editor of Original Instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future (2008); contributor and co-editor of Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability published (2018) and What Kind of Ancestor Do you Want to be? (2021). She is also the creator and host of the Native Seed Pod podcast and has received awards for teaching, documentary films, experiential education, sustainable agriculture, and social justice.

Ya'ateeh, Walter Phelps yinishye, Nakai Dine' Nishli, Haskaan hadzoii baashishchiin, To'dichini dashichei, Tsinajini dashinali. After completing his work in January 2019 as a Navajo Nation Councilman serving two consecutive 4 year terms Phelps established his own consulting firm Flint Point LLC. His business focuses on assisting tribal communities with economic development feasibility studies, research, energy, environmental, and health related policies.

Dr. Trevor Reed is an Associate Professor of Law at Arizona State University's College of Law, where he teaches courses in Property, Intellectual Property, and Federal Indian Law. Dr. Reed's research explores the impacts of intellectual property law on individuals and societies, currently focusing on the relationships between creative production and Native American sovereignty. Reed is advancing community-partnered projects to assist Indigenous peoples in reclaiming their cultural expressions and traditional knowledges while also supporting their local modes of creation and innovation. Reed received his J.D., Ph.D. (Ethnomusicology), and M.A. (Arts Administration) from Columbia University; and BM (Music Composition) from BYU.
**Stephanie Russo Carroll** is Dene/Ahtna, a citizen of the Native Village of Kluti-Kaah in Alaska, and of Sicilian-descent. Based at the University of Arizona (UA), she is Assistant Professor, Community, Environment and Policy Department at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) and American Indian Studies Graduate Interdisciplinary Program; Affiliate Faculty, College of Law; Acting Director and Assistant Research Professor, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy; Associate Director, Native Nations Institute (NNI) at the Udall Center; and Director, Collaboratory for Indigenous Data Governance.

Stephanie’s research explores the links between Indigenous governance, data, the environment, and community wellness. Her interdisciplinary lab group the Collaboratory for Indigenous Data Governance Research, develops research, policy, and practice innovations for Indigenous data sovereignty. Indigenous data sovereignty draws on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that reaffirms the rights of Indigenous nations to control data about their peoples, lands, and resources. The lab’s research, teaching, and engagement seek to transform institutional governance and ethics for Indigenous control of Indigenous data, particularly within open science, open data, and big data contexts. The lab primarily collaborates with Indigenous Peoples and nations in the US Southwest and the Arctic, as well as an international network of Indigenous data sovereignty and governance experts. Lab members also often partner with communities to which they belong, including Indigenous communities. Stephanie offers Indigenous women-led mentoring of undergraduate students through postdoctoral scholars and research staff with the goal of producing policy-relevant research through skill and knowledge acquisition.

**Carissa Sherman** (Diné, she/her/hers) is a second-year graduate student in the Human Medical Genetics and Genomics PhD program at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. She is a member of Dr. Katrina Claw’s Lab, which is a part of the Colorado Center for Personalized Medicine in the Department of Biomedical Informatics. Sherman is from Arizona and went to high school in Washington state. She graduated cum laude from Colorado College with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Molecular Biology and minoring in Anthropology. In her free time, Sherman likes to bake, to do crafts, and to nap. Her long-term goals involve collaborative research with Indigenous communities, evaluating implications of genetic research, and learning potential ways to advance precision medicine with culturally-relevant practices.

**Prof. Tsosie** is Regents Professor and Morris K. Udall Professor of Law at the University of Arizona and prior to this, she was a Regents Professor of Law at Arizona State University and Vice Provost for Inclusion and Community Engagement.
Alfred Urbina is a graduate of the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy (IPLP) program, an enrolled member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and a veteran of the U.S. Army. Urbina worked as Deputy Associate Director, Tribal Justice Support, Office of Justice Services, U.S. Department of Interior - Indian Affairs.

Mr. Urbina also served as Attorney General of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, where he led the tribe's implementation of the Special Domestic Violence Jurisdiction provisions of the Violence Against Women Act and the Tribal Law and Order Act. He has worked diligently with Pascua Yaqui tribal leadership, along with IPLP faculty and clinic students, expanding the tribe's jurisdiction to prosecute non-Native offenders of domestic violence and advocating for continued improvements to criminal justice and social service systems to better serve the community.

Donald Warne, MD, MPH, and member of the Oglala Lakota tribe in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Joined the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health as Co-Director on September 1, 2022. And also serves as Johns Hopkins University’s new Provost Fellow for Indigenous Health Policy. Warne received a Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University, Doctor of Medicine degree from Stanford University’s School of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Warne comes from a long line of traditional healers and medicine men, and is a celebrated researcher of chronic health inequities. He is also an educational leader who created the first Indigenous health-focused Master of Public Health and PhD programs in the U.S. or Canada at the North Dakota State University (NDSU) and the University of North Dakota (UND), respectively. Warne previously served as professor of Family and Community Medicine and associate dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as director of the Indians Into Medicine and Public Health agnesprograms at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Cante Zephier is an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, as well as comes from the Navajo Nation, and the Spirit Lake Dakota Tribe. Cante is currently a senior studying Secondary Education with a focus in History and plans to graduate in the Spring of 2023 with a Bachelor’s degree. Cante is the current Miss Indigenous ASU 2022-2023, with her platform focusing on empowering Indigenous women through the context of Indigenous Feminism. She is passionate about feminism, education, and cultural revitalization, all informing her teaching philosophy which incorporate both western ideals of education and Indigenous knowledge. She hopes to remain in the Valley, and teach high school history.