



(Un)Settling Genealogies: Self-Indigenization in Media, Arts, Politics, and Academia

Guest Editors:

Prof. Kim TallBear

Faculty of Native Studies,
University of Alberta, 1-34
Pembina Hall, Edmonton, AB T6G
2H8, Canada

Prof. Gordon Henry

Department of English, Michigan
State University, C621 Wells Hall,
619 Red Cedar Rd, East Lansing,
MI 48824, USA

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

31 August 2024

Message from the Guest Editors

The special issue focuses on the pervasive phenomenon in the US, Canada, and globally of individuals and groups that make unverifiable or remote claims to Indigenous or Native ancestry in order to gain access to opportunities, resources, and governance rights. Various referred to as self-indigenization, pretendianism, race shifting, or playing Indian, this phenomenon is not completely new. Dakota historian, Philip J. Deloria (1998), documented the roots of “playing Indian” in the U.S. American colonial era when settlers dressed up as Indians in the Boston Tea Party protest. Throughout US history, Deloria demonstrated, non-Natives have continued to appropriate Native dress, artifacts, and representations in their fraternal orders, scouting organizations, and sports teams in order to make psychic and moral claims to land, history, and resources, and to help build a uniquely “American” identity. Self-indigenization extends such practices to a final act of appropriation.





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Editors-in-Chief

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Mexico

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College London, London WC1E
6BT, UK

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Genealogy is a scholarly journal that provides a venue for academic, cutting-edge contributions to the interdisciplinary field of genealogy studies. We welcome contributions that examine genealogies of family lineage, use genealogical considerations and methods in examining other historical processes (including migration histories, personal, social, and national identities, and social institutions) or study the construction of genealogical narratives. The journal is also interested in biographical studies and their contribution to the understanding of broader social and historical phenomena.

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Genealogy Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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