

Presidential Dream Course Rematriation of Indigenous Epistemologies in Education

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There is an ongoing movement toward, and a new recognition of, Indigenous Knowledge Systems within U.S. institutional education contexts. Indigenous women have always been and continue to be at the forefront of these movements. These movements are framed, in part, as a rematriation of knowledge. “Rematriation is a powerful word Indigenous women of Turtle Island use to describe how they are restoring balance to the world...it means ‘Returning the Sacred to the Mother,’”(rematriation.com). Rematriation of knowledge in educational contexts pushes back against the heteropatriarchal underpinnings of the term repatriation. It works to reject narratives and theories that have been used against Indigenous peoples by restoring ontological and epistemological knowledges that are sites and subjects of Indigenous sovereignty. Specifically, rematriation challenges the reductive notion of the “return” of objects by focusing on the assertion of Indigenous Knowledges that cannot be made by settler logics into artifacts or taken and returned. This course takes up Rematriation to consider how Indigenous Knowledges powerfully shape educational contexts and institutions.

Rematriation in education invites us to address the following questions:

- What are knowledge and educational connections to place?
- How can education function as a tool of Nation building and self determination?
- How does reclamation serve as a mechanism of reasserting Indigenous Knowledge?
- In what ways does rematriation upend the heteropatriarchal underpinnings of settler colonialism?

This Presidential Dream Course is divided into four sections that are organized around three primary questions that get at the core considerations of the rematriation of Indigenous knowledges and epistemologies in education:

How is rematriation of knowledge grounded in place and Indigenous nation building?

How does Indigenous gender knowledge disrupt the settler colonial project?

How do you tell the story?