

Committee on Policies and Programs to Reduce Intergenerational Poverty

Virtual Public Information-Gathering Sessions: Intergenerational Poverty and Mobility Among Native Americans in the U.S.

[Friday, July 22, 2022 | 12:00pm – 2:15pm ET](#)
[Monday, July 25, 2022 | 12:00pm – 1:15pm ET](#)

Speaker Biographies

Megan Bang (Ojibwe and Italian descent) is a Professor of the Learning Sciences and Psychology at Northwestern University and is currently serving as the Senior Vice President at the Spencer Foundation. Dr. Bang studies dynamics of culture, learning, and development broadly with a specific focus on the complexities of navigating multiple meaning systems in creating and implementing more effective and just learning environments in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics education. She focuses on reasoning and decision-making about complex socio-ecological systems in ways that intersect with culture, power, and historicity. Central to this work are dimensions of identity, equity and community engagement. She conducts research in both schools and informal settings across the life course. She has taught in and conducted research in teacher education as well as leadership preparation programs. Dr. Bang currently serves on the Board of Science Education at the National Academy of Sciences. She also serves as an executive editor of *Cognition and Instruction* and is on the editorial boards of several other top tiered journals in the field.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, Wacinyanpi Win (They Depend on Her), Sicangu Lakota, is President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, a role she has held since 2012. A lifelong educator and community activist, Cheryl is an advocate for self-determination focused on Native voice, philosophy, and traditions as the heart of the people's work in building prosperity for current and future generations.

Cheryl's experience includes serving Sinte Gleska University on her home reservation as a faculty member, department chair, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Vice President of Administration; serving St. Francis Indian School as Chief Educational Officer; and serving as President of Northwest Indian College for ten years.

She is on the board of IllumiNative, an organization that focuses on a widespread accurate narrative about Indigenous people, Native Ways Federation, a national association of Native non-profits, the State Higher Education Executive Officers Organization (SHEEO) Equity Advisory Committee, and the Brookings Institution Board of Trustees.

Cheryl is a frequent public speaker, presenter, and writer about Indigenous education and issues with a focus on indigenous higher education equity and place-based education. She has an honorary cultural degree from Sinte Gleska University, an honorary doctorate from Seattle University, and other awards for her leadership as a Native educator and Native woman. In 2015 she was named by *Indian Country Today* magazine as one of the 50 most influential people in Indian Country. In 2017 she was one of two American Indian women leaders honored by National Indian Women's "Supporting Each Other" group. The Native American Finance Officers Association honored her with a Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2019. In March of 2020, CBS paid tribute to Crazy Bull, along with six other women, as an example of what it

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means to challenge and overcome stereotypes and biases in their industries as part of a series of CBS CARES public service announcements in primetime on the CBS Television Network. Working Mother Media named her their Legacy Awardee at their Multicultural Women's Conference in July of 2020. In 2021 the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston, Illinois honored Crazy Bull with its Elizabeth Seabury Mitchell Awardee for exemplary service and philanthropic giving in promoting American Indian culture and Global MindED, a non-profit organization dedicated to closing the equity gap by creating a diverse talent pipeline through role models, mentors, and internships, named her as its 2021 Inclusive Leader Awardee.

Greg Duncan (*committee chair*) is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Education at the University of California, Irvine and an adjunct faculty member at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. His current research projects include an examination of how children's early skills and behaviors relate to later-life outcomes, and a meta-analysis of the impacts of early childhood intervention programs. In addition, Dr. Duncan is a member of the interdisciplinary MacArthur Network on the Family and the Economy. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001 and the National Academy of Education in 2009. He served as president of the Population Association of American in 2007-2008, and currently is the president of the Society for Research in Child Development. Dr. Duncan has published extensively on issues of income distribution, child poverty and welfare dependence. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

Stephanie A. Fryberg (*committee member*), a member of the Tulalip Tribes, is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan. As a social and cultural psychologist, her primary research interests focus on how social representations of race, culture, and social class influence the development of self, psychological well-being, physical health, and educational attainment. Dr. Fryberg provided testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding the impact of racist stereotypes on Indigenous people, served as an expert witness in the *Keepseagle v. USDA* class action lawsuit, and consults with National Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). She also received the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Louise Kidder Early Career Award, the University of Arizona Five Star Faculty Award, and in 2011 was inducted into the Multicultural Alumni Hall of Fame at Stanford University.

Matthew Gregg is a senior economist in Community Development and Engagement, where he focuses on research for the Center for Indian Country Development. Before joining the Bank, Matthew was an associate professor of economics at Roger Williams University and, prior to that, a visiting economics professor at Grinnell College. He has conducted research on a wide range of topics within tribal economic development and published work on historical development, Indian removal, land rights, and agricultural productivity. Matthew is a member of the Association for Economic Research of Indigenous People. Matthew received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, where he specialized in applied microeconomics and economic history.

Joe Hobot is President and CEO of American Indian OIC. Dr. Hobot is a descendant of the Hunkpapa Band of the Lakota Nation from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation – where his grandfather and mother are both enrolled members.

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Born and raised in the Twin Cities, Dr. Hobot earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master's degree from the University of St. Thomas, and a Doctorate of Education from Hamline University. He joined American Indian OIC in 2006, serving as lead teacher and then director of education, responsible for the oversight and progress of the agency's alternative high school, its Adult Basic Education/GED program and its career college. He stepped into his current role in 2014.

Dr. Hobot also serves as an adjunct faculty member of the Falmouth Institute – providing national onsite trainings throughout Indian Country for tribal leadership and tribal administrators – and as a consultant with the National Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUIFC). In 2017, he published “Resurgence: Restructuring Urban American Indian Education,” a report commissioned by NUIFC. He has served on the Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership's Board of Directors since 2017 and on the national Native American Employment and Training Council since 2019. He also serves as a director on the boards of the Native American Community Clinic and Ain Dah Yung Center, and chairs the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors' group.

In 2015, Dr. Hobot received the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce's Bear Award for service to the American Indian community of Minnesota, and the following year was selected as a fellow at the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He received an Ascend Fellowship from the Aspen Institute in 2018 and was recognized as a #MNCivicLeader by the Citizens League in 2020.

Judith LeBlanc is Director of the Native Organizers Alliance (NOA). She is an enrolled member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma. The Native Organizers Alliance is a national Native training and organizing network which provides Native organizers, tribal governments and non-profits trainings based on traditional Indigenous knowledge values and practices. LeBlanc co-chaired the May 2016 Fertile Ground Planning Committee and co-edited the Fertile Ground II: Growing the Seeds of Native American Health Final Report. The convening gathered 200 Native community, tribal leaders, public health experts and members of the philanthropic community to share case studies and strategies for healthier Native communities, highlighting the urgent need for philanthropy to invest in Indian Country. LeBlanc is currently working with tribal governments, traditional elders and Native community groups in South Dakota who are organizing to protect the hydroscape.

Kevin Killer is President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He is a youth activist, Native American politician, and president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Kevin served 10 years in the South Dakota legislature, representing a district that includes the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He is a co-founder of Advance Native Political Leadership. Kevin recently completed his fellowship with the Open Society Foundation Leadership in Government program working on Truth and Healing in Native communities in the United States.

He attended Oglala Lakota College and was the first Tribal College Fellow of a progressive youth leadership development organization, Young People For (YP4). Killer expanded YP4's tribal college network into an independent, Native-led organization called the Native Youth Leadership Alliance (NYLA) in 2009.

Killer serves on the board of the People for the American Way Foundation, and past service includes, the National Indian Education Association, the Oglala Lakota College Board of Trustees, the Young Elected Officials Network, the Quad Caucus, and the National Caucus Native American State Legislators. He was a 2015 Bush Fellow.

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Beth Redbird is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Northwestern University. She is also a faculty fellow with the Institute for Policy Research and the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. Her work focuses on how between-group boundaries impact interaction, conflict and inequality. Boundaries can be as formal as borders between nations, or as informal as cultural differences. Whether they are geographical, political, legal, or social, boundaries create inequality because limit the free flow of resources; restrict knowledge and ideas; and draw distinctions between 'us' and 'them'. Her current work focuses on two areas: (1) The ways in which modern settler-colonial boundaries constrain and influence native nations; (2) The flow of human movement within and between spaces.

Emilia Simeonova joined Johns Hopkins Carey Business School in 2013 from Tufts University. Between 2011-2012 she was a research fellow at the Center for Health and Wellbeing at Princeton University. Emilia's research interests in the economics of health care delivery, patient adherence to therapy and the interaction between physicians and patients, racial disparities in health outcomes, the long-term effects of shocks to children's health and the intergenerational transmission of health. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Swedish Research Council and the Danish Academy of Sciences. Emilia received her Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in 2008.

C. Matthew Snipp is the Burnet C. and Mildred Finley Wohlford Professor of Humanities and Sciences in the Department of Sociology at Stanford University. He is also the Director for the Institute for Research in the Social Science's Secure Data Center and formerly directed Stanford's Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE). Before moving to Stanford in 1996, he was a Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin -- Madison. He has been a Research Fellow at the U.S. Bureau of the Census and a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Professor Snipp has published 3 books and over 70 articles and book chapters on demography, economic development, poverty and unemployment. His current research and writing deals with the methodology of racial measurement, changes in the social and economic well-being of American ethnic minorities, and American Indian education. For nearly ten years, he served as an appointed member of the Census Bureau's Racial and Ethnic Advisory Committee. He also has been involved with several advisory working groups evaluating the 2000 census, three National Academy of Science panels focused on the 2010 and 2020 censuses. He also has served as a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Centers for Disease Control and the National Center for Health Statistics as well as an elected member of the Inter-University Consortium of Political and Social Research's Council. He is currently serving on the National Institute of Child Health and Development's Population Science Subcommittee. Snipp holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Karina L. Walters, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the Katherine Hall Chambers Scholar, and the co-director and principal investigator of the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI; NIMHD P60MD006909) at the University of Washington. IWRI was one of 16 National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities Comprehensive Centers of Excellence and one of two devoted to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) research in the country.

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Dr. Walters has more than 25 years of experience in social epidemiological research on the historical, social, and cultural determinants of health among AIAN populations as well as chronic disease prevention research (e.g., HIV, AOD, obesity). Much of this social epidemiological work has targeted urban AIANs and LGBT-Two Spirit AIAN populations across the United States. In recent years, Dr. Walters has since expanded her research foci to include tribally based intervention research in the areas of substance abuse, obesity, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS prevention, particularly among American Indian women. Methodologically, she has expertise in decolonizing methodologies, particularly with respect to designing community-based, culturally grounded interventions.

Dr. Walters has presented at more than 360+ national and international conferences; was an invited speaker for Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS) at the NIH; and was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Dr. Walters has served as Principal Investigator or Co-I on over 46 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants (20 as PI) from diverse NIH institutes; has mentored over 110 scholars from historically underrepresented populations including 55 AIAN scholars; and has participated in 16 national research training programs for underrepresented ethnic minority scholars. Currently, she is active in NIDA's American Indian Scientific Committee and is Chair of the NIH's Intervention Research to Improve Native American Health (IRINAH) Committee.

Dr. Walters received her B.A. (sociology) in 1987, her M.S.W. (clinical) in 1990, and her Ph.D. in 1995 all from the University of California, Los Angeles. After serving on faculty as an Assistant and Associate Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work (1995-2001), she joined the University of Washington faculty in 2001 and became Full Professor in 2011. She has served as Director of the Doctoral Program (2003-05) and as Associate Dean for Research (since 2012). Prior to her career in academia, Dr. Walters was a community-based psychotherapist and served as Commissioner for the Los Angeles County American Indian Commission.