

WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Two Spirited People in Today's World

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March 2nd, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

Prior to colonization, the original people of this land we call Turtle Island, did not see people in a binary gender fashion. Rather, people were cherished for the roles they played and the contributions they made to the wellbeing of the nation. Those who were seen as different shared in the rich tradition of the Two-Spirit. Sadly, like many others, these traditions have become invisible under the blanket of colonization.

The purpose of the workshop is to take the participant on a journey from pre-contact to modern times, so as to develop a greater understanding of the reality of Two-spirit today.

Outline

- 1. The Two-Spirit prior to colonization**
 - a. Who were the Two-Spirits?
 - b. Social roles and traditions
 - c. Societal structures
- 2. The effects of colonization**
 - a. First contact
 - b. Changes to the traditional roles and social structures
- 3. Two-Spirited people in today's world**
 - a. Changing views and understanding of gender
 - b. Two-Spirit organizing
 - c. Important political and social impacts
 - d. Challenges
 - e. Steps forward



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Required Readings*

- Costanza-Chock, Sasha, Costanza-Chock, Chris Schweidler, and Transformative Media Organizing Project (2017) "Toward transformative media organizing: LGBTQ and Two-Spirit media work in the United States". *Media, Culture & Society*. 39:2, pp. 159-184. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF1F05>
- Jacobs, Sue-Ellen (1997) "Is the North-American 'Berdache' Merely a Phantom in the Imagination of Western Social Scientists?" in Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Lang (eds.), *Two-Spirited People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality*, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, pp. 21-44. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF2011>
- Meyercook, Fiona and Diane Labelle (2004) "Namaji: Two-Spirit Organizing in Montreal, Canada". *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*. 16:1, pp. 29-51. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF1F04>
- Robinson, Margaret (2017) "Two-Spirit and Bisexual People: Different Umbrella, Same Rain". *Journal of Bisexuality*. 17:1, pp. 7-29. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF1F03>

Recommended Readings

- Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Lang (1997) *Two-Spirited People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality*, Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at wssr@concordia.ca

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