



Indigenous Voices, Indigenous Environmentalism

Thursday, July 15, 2021 | 3:30 – 5:00pm, Hawai'i

Friday, July 16, 2021 | 8:30am-10:00am, Western Indonesia | 9:30-11:00am, Baguio City

Speaker Biographies



Joan CARLING

Co-convener, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development, Baguio City, Philippines [@JoanCarling](#)

Joan Carling is an indigenous Filipino human rights activist and environmentalist who has defended the rights of native and marginalized peoples for over two decades. Her main interests include the protection of land rights of indigenous peoples, ensuring sustainable development of natural resources and upholding the human rights of marginalized people. Joan is currently co-convener of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group for Sustainable Development-IPMG. Additionally, she has twice served as the Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and chairperson of the Cordillera People's Alliance. She was appointed by the UN Economic and Social Council as an indigenous expert and served as a member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues between 2014 and 2016. Joan was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by UN Environment in September 2018.



Dina GILIO-WHITAKER

Author, *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock*, and Lecturer, American Indian Studies, California State University San Marcos, San Clemente, California, USA [@DinaGWhit](#)

Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville Confederated Tribes) is a lecturer of American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), and an independent educator in American Indian environmental policy and other issues. At CSUSM she teaches courses on environmentalism and American Indians, traditional ecological knowledge, religion and philosophy, Native women's activism, American Indians and sports, and decolonization. She also works within the field of critical sports studies, examining the intersections of indigeneity and the sport of surfing. As a public intellectual, Dina brings her scholarship into focus as an award-winning journalist as well, with her work appearing at *Indian Country Today*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *High Country News*, *Time.com*, *Slate*, *History.com*, *Bioneers*, *Truthout*, the *Pacifica Network*, *Grist*, and many more. Dina is the author of two books; including the most recent award-winning *As Long As Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock*. She is currently under contract with Beacon Press for a new book under the working title *Illegitimate Nation: Privilege, Race, and Accountability in the U.S. Settler State*.

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Emmanuela SHINTA

Filmmaker, *When Women Fight* & *KAHARAPEN* and Founder & Director, Ranu Welum Foundation, Kalimantan, Indonesia [@EmmanuelaShin](#)

Emmanuela Shinta is a filmmaker and founder & director of the Ranu Welum Foundation. Born a Dayak Maanyan, Emmanuela was only five years old when the big fires burned down 6.5 million hectares of land in Kalimantan. Twenty-three years later, she is at the frontlines of the fight to stop forest peat fires and mobilize the youth movement, Climate Justice for Kalimantan.

In 2014, Emmanuela founded Ranu Welum, a Dayak youth initiative that combines indigenous knowledge and modern technology to empower indigenous youth to preserve the culture, protect the forest, and fight for indigenous rights. Along with her team of young leaders, Emmanuela has trained 157 young Dayaks in filmmaking and produced 77 films. What started as a small group eager to use audiovisual media to express their Dayak identity, Ranu Welum is now globally renowned for its efforts in ecological disaster relief, the Youth Act green movement, Borneo forest restoration, and its indigenous film festivals. Emmanuela has spoken on behalf of her community at forums both regionally and abroad, including at various United Nations events where she was able to share her films and stories of the Dayak people with a global audience.



Heidi TODACHEENE

Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, DC, USA

Heidi Todacheene is a citizen of Navajo Nation who served as legislative counsel for Congresswoman Deb Haaland and democratic director of the Congressional Native American Caucus in the United States Congress. Previously, Heidi worked on intergovernmental affairs, economic development, and public safety issues on behalf of her Nation, served at the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, and as a civil litigation attorney. Heidi is the first in her family to attend law school and graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law. She is licensed in New Mexico, Washington D.C., and the U.S. District Court for New Mexico.

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Ulalia WOODSIDE

Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA [@UlaliaWoodside](#)

Ulalia Woodside is dedicated to the thriving lands, seas, people and culture of Hawai'i. She is a Kumu Hula and executive director for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra Chapter, where she and her team protect and restore native watershed forests, collaborate with communities to improve coral reefs and fisheries, and develop cutting-edge research at Palmyra Atoll. Prior to joining TNC, Ulalia oversaw and expanded place-based education and natural and cultural resources management programs at Kamehameha Schools. She also collaborates to advance cultural ecosystem services research and the unique relationship of indigenous peoples to natural resources management as a contributing author to journal articles. Ulalia serves on the board of directors for Hawai'i Green Growth, Mālama Honua Public Charter School, Kauahea Inc. and the Lālākea Foundation; organizations dedicated to the advancement of learning, traditional cultural practices, and the preservation of the Hawaiian relationship to land. In her words, "Hula and mo'olelo are our expressions of love and commitment for our home, Hawai'i. We honor the tree that collects rainwater for us to drink... the ancestral wisdom of seasons... and the reciprocity of kinship and stewardship with 'āina. As we continue to tell our stories, write songs and dance the motions of the mountains and seas, our promise to Hawai'i and the planet lives for generations."

Palmyra Atoll. Prior to joining TNC, Ulalia oversaw and expanded place-based education and natural and cultural resources management programs at Kamehameha Schools. She also collaborates to advance cultural ecosystem services research and the unique relationship of indigenous peoples to natural resources management as a contributing author to journal articles. Ulalia serves on the board of directors for Hawai'i Green Growth, Mālama Honua Public Charter School, Kauahea Inc. and the Lālākea Foundation; organizations dedicated to the advancement of learning, traditional cultural practices, and the preservation of the Hawaiian relationship to land. In her words, "Hula and mo'olelo are our expressions of love and commitment for our home, Hawai'i. We honor the tree that collects rainwater for us to drink... the ancestral wisdom of seasons... and the reciprocity of kinship and stewardship with 'āina. As we continue to tell our stories, write songs and dance the motions of the mountains and seas, our promise to Hawai'i and the planet lives for generations."



Moderator:



Stephine POSTON

Owner & Chief Executive Officer, Poston& Associates LLC and Changing Faces Seminar Alum, Sandia Pueblo, New Mexico, USA [@SandiaPoston](https://www.instagram.com/SandiaPoston)

Stephine (Steph) Poston is a visionary communications, public relations and marketing strategist for federal and state agencies, Tribal governments, Native organizations, and businesses. She founded Poston & Associates, LLC (P&A) in 2002, headquartered on the Pueblo of Sandia, just outside Albuquerque, New Mexico. As a citizen of the Pueblo of Sandia, Steph possesses an innate understanding and passion for Indian Country that translates in her work with Indigenous people globally. Steph's proven track record for executing highly effective communication campaigns includes work with the U.S. Department of Interior, Navajo Nation, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, New Mexico Department of Health, National Congress of American Indians, and Americans for Indian Opportunity, to name a few. In 2017, she was named Native woman business owner of the year across Indian Country. Steph is also one of eight co-founders of Native Women Lead, an organization dedicated to closing the wealth gap for Native women by inspiring them to become entrepreneurs. She recently became a certified professional coach through the International Coaching Federation and uses the tools for transformational development.

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