Unsettling the Department of History

What does Decolonization and Indigenization mean and look like?

For the last four months, the Decolonization and Indigenization Working Group in the History Department has been working to define decolonization and Indigenization, and how it looks in academic spaces, like universities. Many universities in Canada, notably UVic and UofA, have toolkits and guides to foster spaces of learning and challenging colonial knowledge systems online. Using their work as a foundation for SFU’s Department of History, the Decolonization and Indigenization Working Group is working to create a more inclusive community that challenges colonial assumptions in academic spaces.

Decolonization and Indigenization requires the deconstructing of colonial ideologies of the superiority of Western knowledge systems, instead highlighting and naturalizing Indigenous knowledge systems to transform spaces, places, and hearts.

Remember when SFU removed the Comfort Mural from display after the recommendations made by the Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee? For more information, click here.
Decolonization and Indigenization Research Assistants

ASHLEY KYNE
Undergraduate Criminology Student Research Assistant | Department of History

Ashley Kyne is an iTaukei Student at SFU. She is in the final year of her undergraduate career, in pursuit of her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology (Honours) and Indigenous Studies. Ashley recently defended her Honours thesis on Indigenous offender risk assessment, with a concentration on culturally-relevant risk factors. Ashley’s area of study has provided her with the opportunity to volunteer and work with like-minded organizations. Growing up in Vancouver, and being at the forefront of these organizations, Ashley has seen how difficult life in Vancouver can be. Especially from the historical and current effects of colonization, Indigenous People’s standard of living is significantly lower than the rest of Canada. Accordingly, Ashley hopes her term as a Research Assistant has been spent creating an inclusive community for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff.

ZAINA KHAN
Undergraduate History Student Research Assistant | Department of History

Zaina is a History student at SFU with a double minor in Indigenous Studies and Sociology. Her education has allowed her to explore the ways colonial and capitalist knowledge systems are embedded into social institutions. As a first-generation academic of Punjabi/Pathan ancestry, Zaina hopes to unsettle academia in her Masters research because of its attempts to silence marginalized students. In her spare time, Zaina likes to teach new tricks to her pet rabbits, and spend time with her friends and family.

TO CONTACT ASHLEY OR ZAINA Please email: akyne@sfu.ca or zainak@sfu.ca
Events To Look Forward To

MEET THE MATRIARCHS: SQUAMISH NATION KNOWLEDGE SHARERS
Friday, June 3 @ 5-7pm
The Museum of North Vancouver is hosting a special event to recognize Indigenous History Month with three generations of knowledge sharers: Kultsia Barbara Wyss, T’uuy’tanat Cease Wyss and Senaqwila Wyss. Learn from three Squamish Matriarchs as they share their knowledge of local traditions and culture through song and stories. Click here for more information.

BC HALAL FOOD FEST
Saturday, June 25 @ 12-9pm
Eid Al-Adha is one of the most important holidays for Muslims around the world. This year in Surrey, many Halal restaurants and Muslim Organizations are partnering to host a Food Fest that is open to everyone to learn about Eid and to enjoy various cultural foods! For more information, follow the event on Instagram @bchalalfoodfest.