Working in good faith with indigenous communities: Implementing principles of Free Prior Informed Consent

Abstract: For years, indigenous communities have advocated for their sovereignty rights and increased control over their lands, natural resources, and cultural heritage. One outcome of these efforts is the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which emphasizes Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and centers indigenous communities’ rights to self-determination in working with researchers and other outside interests. FPIC is decision-making founded on consent that is not coerced or biased; required and given before gaining access; and based on communities having access to all relevant information on benefits, costs, and risks. The right of indigenous communities to FPIC is embedded in indigenous rights to self-determination and supported by human rights instruments. Given that this is a new standard, there remains a lack of awareness regarding the meaning and significance of this instrument as it applies to research and professional practices. This session seeks to fill this gap by creating an engaging multidisciplinary discussion of the normative and ethical standards embedded in FPIC, its advocacy potential, and ways in which it can be implemented in the professional work of cultural and educational institutions.

Session Format Description: The session would work as a round table discussion where all participants are able share expertise and experience and discuss applications of norms in their work. Each person at the table will have a chance to speak in turn, either sharing their research, responding to another participant, or verbally passing.

Objectives:

1. Promote awareness of UNDRIP and FPIC among researchers working with indigenous communities and emerging education and information professionals
2. Inform LIS and museum professionals about specific standards and issues with conservation and repatriation of indigenous materials in collections
3. Educate participants about human rights instruments and international standards
4. Create partnerships across disciplines
5. Share projects and research

**Call for participants:** For researchers who are planning on presenting during the round table, we ask for one paragraph outlining their research and how the concepts we will be discussing relate to their work. Discussants are particularly encouraged to bring handouts for other participants. We ask that all participants, whether or not they are sharing research, watch this video on FPIC and read the UNDRIP.

**RSVPs are requested from all participants.** RSVPs and paragraph outlines can be emailed to the conference organizers at rosman@law.ucla.edu, jmbotnick@ucla.edu, and chummelcolla@gmail.com.

**Organizer Bios:**

Phillipa Rosman (MLIS)

Julie Botnick is a first-year MLIS and a Teaching Assistant in History. After earning a BA in History *cum laude* from Yale, she worked in environmental programming, political organizing, and history education before moving to Los Angeles. Her research is on community-based archival description.

Christina Hummel-Colla is a first-year MLIS student who works with library collections at a local museum. She obtained her BA in History from Occidental College, where she discovered her motivation to work in museums and related institutions. Her research interests include indigenous human rights and methods for decolonizing our cultural and educational institutions.

Mentor: Ulia Gosart (Information Studies)