

November 21, 2024
10.00 - 13.00
Fakultätssaal 01-185
Philosophicum

Dr. Renae Watchman

“Hane'tonomy: Restoring/
Re-storying Diné Presence
and Futurisms with Hózhǫ́”

**Obama Dissertation Prize &
Hans Galinsky Memorial Prize
Award Ceremonies**



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“Hane'tonomy: Restoring/Re-storying Diné Presence and Futurisms with Hózhǫ́”

The Diné bizaad (Navajo language) word for story, narrative, and wisdom is hane'. The concept hane'tonomy fuses hane' with the word autonomy. Hane'tonomy weaves wisdom, theory, and analysis to demonstrate Diné thought. My keynote will focus on a careful and critical examination of youth suicide, contemporary reservation life, and healthy outlets through a close analysis of Diné filmmaker Sydney Freeland's *Rez Ball* (2024). Set in my hometown of Shiprock, New Mexico, *Rez Ball* captures hane'tonomy through communal love and heartbreak. Freeland's film models healing and restoration, or hózhǫ́, which means coming to a state of peace, beauty, wellness, harmony, and balance. Hózhǫ́ is the core of Diné epistemologies and is critical for vibrant Indigenous tomorrows.



Tódich'íí'níí éínishł́t' dóó Kinya'aanii báshishchíín. Áádóó Tsalagi (Tsidíí éí) da shichei dóó Táchíí'níí éí da shináí. Naat'aanii Nééz déé' iyísi naashá, áádóó Haudenosaunee dóó Mississauga bikéyah, díí shighaan. Shi éí Renae Watchman yinishyé. Ákót'éego Diné dóó Tsalagi Asdzaan nishł́t'. Renae Watchman is an associate professor of Indigenous Studies at McMaster University. Dr. Watchman is enrolled with the Navajo Nation (Shiprock agency) in New Mexico. She is Bitter Water Clan, born for the Towering House Clan. Her maternal grandfather was Cherokee from Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and they are Tsidíí (Bird Clan). Her paternal grandfather was from the Red Running Through the Water Clan. Diné stories illustrate the kinship responsibilities of the Tódich'íí'níí are as philosophers and educators, and the Kinya'aanii are as leaders and guides. She is the author of *Restoring Relations Through Stories: from Dinétah to Denendeh* (2024, University of Arizona Press) and co-editor with Hartmut Lutz and Florentine Strelczyk of *Indianthusiasm: Indigenous Responses* (2020, Wilfrid Laurier Press).

Obama Dissertation Prize

The Obama Dissertation Prize is awarded annually for outstanding Ph.D. work in Transnational American Studies.

Dr. Naima Green-Riley

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

“How to Win Friends and Influence People Overseas: The U.S., China, and the Microfoundations of Public Diplomacy”

Hans Galinsky Memorial Prize

The Hans Galinsky Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the best student theses and research papers in Early American Studies at the Obama Institute's Mainz campus.

Enrico Marx

“Frederick Douglass' Blueprint: Literacy and Violence as a Way of Achieving Manhood”
Term Paper

Kyra Sposny

“Two-Spirit Print and Indigenous Media Activism: Kai Minosh Pyle's Plurimedial Creativity”
M.A. Thesis

Obama Lecture Program 2024

Welcome Address

Alfred Hornung,
Speaker of the Obama Institute

Obama Lecture (in memoriam Karl Dietz)

Introduction: Mita Banerjee

Obama Dissertation Prize

Introduction: Axel R. Schäfer

Galinsky Prizes

Introduction: Oliver Scheiding