



These Truths at 250



Guest Lecture

July 4, 2026 | 09:00 a.m.
P 110, Philosophicum

Indigenous Scholarship and Its Responses to 'America250'

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Events like the 1893 Columbian Exposition and the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial illustrate how Indigenous leaders, artists, and scholars have used the United States' commemorative anniversaries across the centuries as occasions for truth telling, generating new knowledge, and networking with one another. The United States Semiquincentennial and its America250 initiatives offer a unique opportunity for scholars of Indigenous Studies to examine how Native Nations are choosing to (not) engage with this platform in expressing the history and culture of their People and the policies and goals of their Tribal governments. In this session, we will look at how Native people and Native Nations have and have not been involved in individual state and federal America250 initiatives, and at Native-led commemorations taking place this year, such as the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Greasy Grass/Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Christianna Stavroudis is an instructor at the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Wuppertal. Her article, "Let My People Have a Right': The Native Activism of Arapaho Chief Paul Boynton," was published in the Fall 2025 issue of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. She and Gordon Yellowman, Sr. (Cheyenne Peace Chief and Tribal Historian of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes) gave their presentation, "A Milestone for the Peyote Road: The 1918 Chartering of the Native American Church of Oklahoma and Its Impact on Native Nations Today," at the 2026 Oklahoma History Symposium this May. Stavroudis and Yellowman's latest project is entitled "Native Chroniclers and Journalists at the Turn of the 20th Century: A Case Study of Early Cheyenne and Arapaho Archival Activism," which highlights anglophone writing published by Cheyenne and Arapaho writers in regional newspapers and boarding school press from 1875-1925.

* This talk is part of the **Obama Institute event series** on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence "These Truths at 250."