

Natalie Avalos

CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado
Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho Territories (Boulder, CO)
natalie.avalos@colorado.edu

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

- 2020 – Present CU Boulder, Ethnic Studies Department, Assistant Professor
- 2019 – 2020 CU Boulder, Ethnic Studies Department, Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2018 – 2019 CU Boulder, Religious Studies Department, Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2015 – 2018 Connecticut College, Religious Studies Department, Visiting Assistant Professor
- 2015 Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
Dissertation: “Interdependence as a Lifeway: Decolonization and Resistance in Transnational Native American and Tibetan Communities.”
- 2010 M.A., Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
Thesis: “Postcolonial Healing: Indigenous Concepts of *Power* and Strategies for Self-Determination.”
- 2006 B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies (Anthropology/Religious Studies/Psychology) with Honors, University of California, Berkeley
Thesis: “Prayer, Change and Power: The Role of Experiential Knowledge in Tibetan Buddhist and Hopi Indian Epistemology.”

AREAS OF RESEARCH

Native American and Indigenous Religious Traditions, Tibetan Buddhism, Indigenous Stewardship, Decolonization, Transnationalism

GRANTS/ FELLOWSHIPS

Extramural

- 2018 – 2020 Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow at CU Boulder
- 2013 – 2015 UC Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) and the Henry Luce Foundation, “Humanitarian Ethics, Religious Affinities and the Politics of Dissent,” Religions in Global Diaspora and Global Affairs (RIDAGA) Humanities Studio, \$75,000, Co-PI (with Mariam Lam—UCR and Neda Atanasoski—UCSC)
- 2012 – 2013 Fund for Theological Education (FTE), North American Doctoral Fellow
- 2009 – 2012 Ford Foundation, Predoctoral Fellow

Intramural

- 2017 – 2018 R. F. Johnson Faculty Development Fund Award
- 2016 – 2017 Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity Programming Grant
- 2014 – 2015 UCSB Chicano Studies Institute Graduate Student Research Award

2012 – 2013 UCSB Graduate Division, Humanities Dissertation Research Fellow
2012 UCSB Chicano Studies Institute Summer Research Grant

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles/Book Chapters

- 2021 "What Does It Mean to Heal From Historical Trauma?" *AMA Journal of Ethics* (Forthcoming).
- "Planting Yourself in the Land: Urban Indian Peoplehood and Reindigenizing Places." *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief* (Forthcoming).
- "Decolonizing the Classroom: Settler Colonialism, Knowledge Production, and Antiracism." In *Global Perspectives on Dialogue: Cultivating Inclusive, Authentic, and Intersectional Classroom Conversations*, edited by Ashmi Desai and Hoa N. Nguyen. London, UK: Palgrave MacMillan (Forthcoming).
- 2020 "Indigenous Stewardship as a Lifeway." *Journal of Environmental Media*, 1:2: 133-138.
- 2019 "Red Praxis: Lessons from Mashantucket to Standing Rock." Co-Authors Sandy Grande and Jason Mancini. In *Standing with Standing Rock: Voices From the #NoDAPL Movement*, edited by Jaskiran Dhillon and Nick Estes. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.
- 2018 "We're Not all Immigrants:" The White Liberal Nostalgia of Immigrant Life." *Sociological Imagination Journal*, Volume 54, No. 1: 57-65.
- 2017 "Re-Enchanting the Land of Enchantment: Religious Regeneration in a Native/Chicanx Community." Special Issue, *ChicanX and Native American Indigenities*, edited by Gerardo Aldana, Salvador Guereña and Felicia Lopez. *rEvista: A Multimedia, Multi-genre e-Journal for Social Justice*, Volume 5, Issue 2: 1-21.
- 2014 "Indigenous Visions of Self-Determination: Healing and Historical Trauma In Native America." *Global Societies Journal*, Volume 2: 1-13.

Book Chapters/Essays

- 2021 "Latinx Indigenities and Christianity." In *The Oxford Handbook of Latino/a Christianities in the United States*, edited by Kristy Nabhan Warren. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press (Forthcoming).
- 2017 "Becoming Human: 'Urban Indian' Decolonisation and Regeneration in the Land of Enchantment." In *The Brill Handbook of Indigenous Religion(s)*, edited by Greg Johnson and Siv Ellen Kraft. Leiden, Boston: Brill.

In Progress

Indigenous Religious Traditions in 5 Minutes – co-edited volume in preparation.

The Metaphysics of Decoloniality: Transnational Indigeneities and Religious Refusal – book manuscript in preparation.

Web-Based Publications/Public Scholarship

- 2020 “Taking a Critical Indigenous and Ethnic Studies Approach to Decolonizing Religious Studies.” *Contending Modernities*, Decoloniality and Liberation Theology Series, October 14.
- “Decolonizing Religious Studies and its Layers of Complicity.” *The Religious Studies Project*, podcast interview, August 17.
- “Land-based Ethics and Settler Solidarity in a Time of Corona and Revolution.” *The Arrow: A Journal of Wakeful Society, Culture & Politics*, Essays, July 9.
- “Indigenous Stewardship and the Death Rattle of White Supremacy.” *Political Theology Network*, Symposium on Environmental Justice & Settler Colonialism: A Political Theology of Climate Change, June 25.
- “Memory.” *The Immanent Frame*, A Universe of Terms Series, May 29.
- 2018 “Decolonial Approaches to the Study of Religion: Teaching Native American and Indigenous Religious Traditions.” *Spotlight on Teaching*, American Academy of Religion, Teaching Religions as Anti-Racism Education, November 5.
- 2017 “Insurgent Pedagogies: Decolonization is For All of Us.” *Maximum RocknRoll*, Teaching Resistance column (print and online), Issue #409, June.
- 2016 “Standing with Standing Rock.” Co-Authors Sandy Grande, Jason Mancini, Rijuta Mehta, Michelle Neely, and Christopher Newell. *Cultural Anthropology*, Hot Spots blog series, December 22.

Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of Jennifer Graber, *Gods of Indian Country: Religion and the Struggle for the American West*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018. *American Religion* (Forthcoming).
- 2020 Review of Rodney Frey, *Carry Forth the Stories: An Ethnographer’s Journey into Native Oral Tradition*. Pullman, WA: Washington University Press, 2017. *Anthropology and Humanism* Vol. 45, Issue 1 (June): 171-173.
- 2014 Review of M. Bianet Castellanos, Lourdes Gutiérrez Nájera and Arturo J. Aldama, *Comparative Indigeneities of the Américas: Toward a Hemispheric Approach*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona press, 2012. *Religious Studies Review* Vol. 40, Issue 1 (March): 54-54.

2013 Review of Catherine A. Euler, Frank D. Tikalsky and John Nagel, *The Sacred Oral Traditions of the Havasupai: as Retold by Elders and Headman Manakaja and Sinyella 1918-1921*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2010. *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 39, Issue 3 (September): 187-187.

Review of Jay Youngdahl, *Working on the Railroad, Walking In Beauty: Navajos, Hózhó, and Track Work*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2011. *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 39, Issue 3 (September): 190-190.

Review of Thomas C. Maroukis, *The Peyote Road: Religious Freedom and the Native American Church*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 39, Issue 3 (September): 188-189.

Other Publications

2019 “Insurgent Pedagogies: Decolonization is For All of Us.” In *Teaching Resistance: Radicals, Revolutionaries, and Cultural Subversives in the Classroom*, edited by John Mink. Oakland, CA: PM Press.

2016 “Interview with Inés Talamantez.” *Journal for the Feminist Study of Religion*, Volume 32, Issue 1: 153-169.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2021 **University of California Santa Barbara Earth Sciences Department, Santa Barbara, CA (virtual)**

“Earth Justice: Indigenous Stewardship.” Earth Science Colloquium, February 4.

2020 **University of California Berkeley Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, Berkeley, CA (virtual)**

“Land-Based Ethics and Settler Solidarity.” Critical Engagements in Anti-racist Environmental Scholarship Course, guest speaker, November 4.

University of California, Santa Barbara Multicultural Center, Santa Barbara, CA (virtual)

“Chicanx Indigenities: Decolonization and Religious Refusal.” Race and Religion Series, October 29.

Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages, Berkeley, CA (virtual)

“Resisting Settler Colonialism as Buddhist Allies to Indigenous Peoples.” Currents: Conversations on Critical Contemporary Issues in Buddhist Thought and Practice, October 23.

University of Edinburgh Religious Studies Seminar Series, Edinburgh, UK (virtual)

“Indigenous Stewardship, Settler Ecologies, and Decolonization.” Advocacy, Indigeneity, and Religion Panel, October 21.

Vanderbilt University Department of Religious Studies, Nashville, TN (virtual)
Religion and the 2020 Election: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward, Roundtable Discussion, October 14.

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN (virtual)
Indigenous Religion and Spirituality, Roundtable Discussion, June 23.

Department of Religion Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
Policing the Academy, Roundtable Discussion, February 15.

2015 **Religion Department and the Consortium of Studies on Race, Colonialism and Diaspora, Tufts University, Medford, MA**
Questions of Faith: Religions, Diasporas, Colonialism, Panel Discussion, November 9.

Conference Activity

2020 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual Meeting**
“Taking an Indigenous Studies to Religious Studies.” Panel: Decolonizing our Fields: Women of Color Scholars on Transforming the Guild. Women of Color Teaching, and Activism, December 3.

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual Meeting
“Somatic Knowledge Production in Native American Religious Traditions.” Panel: I Know the Feeling: Affect in the Academic Guild. Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit and Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit, December 2.

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON
“Religious Praxis as Sacred Purpose: The Metaphysics of Urban Indian Religious Regeneration.” Panel: Understanding Native American and Indigenous Ceremonial Life: Complicating Religion, Spirituality, and the Sacred, accepted/cancelled. (Panel Organizer)

American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA
“The Metaphysics of Decoloniality: Indigenous Religious Refusals as Sovereignty.” Political Theology Panel: Indigenizing Philosophy, accepted/cancelled.

Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Washington, DC
Panelist. Roundtable Discussion on Quynh Nhu Le’s *Unsettled Solidarities*, accepted/cancelled.

2019 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA**
“Settler Colonialism and Tibet.” Panel: Decolonial/Anti-Racist Interventions in Tibetan/Buddhist Studies. Tibetan and Himalayan Religions, November 25.

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA

“Indigenous Theory is Not Theology: Decolonizing the Study of Religion.” Panel: Theory and Method 2.0: Decolonizing the Field. Joint Session: Critical Theory and Discourse on Religion and Cultural History of the Study of Religion, November 24.

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA

“Rematriation as Indigenous Praxis.” Panel: Author-Meets-Critics: Cutcha Risling Baldy’s *We Are Dancing for You: Native Feminisms and the Revitalization of Women’s Coming-of-Age Ceremonies* (2018). Native Traditions in the Americas, November 23.

North American Association for the Study of Religion, San Diego, CA

Respondent. Gregory Alles, “The Role of and Influence of Private Funding on the Field.” November 22.

American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI

“The Metaphysics of Decoloniality: Making America Indigenous Again.” Panel: Decolonizing the Study of Religion, November 9.

2018 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO**

“Widening the Sacred Hoop: Decolonial Healing in a Native/Chicanx Community.” Panel: Decolonization as Healing Session I: Navajo, Native/Chicanx, and Afro-Caribbean Religion. Quad-Sponsored Session: African Diaspora Religions Group, Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit, and Native Traditions in the Americas Group and Religions, Medicines, and Healing, November 17.

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO

“Planting Yourself in the Land: Urban Indian Peoplehood and Reindigenizing Places.” Panel: Movement and Indigenous Religions. Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit, November 17.

American Indigenous Research Association, Polson, MT

“The Metaphysics of Decoloniality: Urban Indian Religious Regeneration and ReIndigenizing Places, October 12.

2017 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA**

“Writing and Researching in Native America: Walking the Insider/Outsider Line.” Panel: Indigenous Methodologies: Translating Words, Inhabiting Worlds. Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit, November 20.

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA

“We’re Not all Immigrants:” The White Liberal Nostalgia of Immigrant Life.” Panel: Making White Nostalgia “Great” Again: The Politics of Religion and Memory in the United States. Religion, Memory, History Unit, November 20.

2015 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA**

“Healing as Liberation: Native American and Tibetan Decolonization.” Quad-Sponsored Session: African Diaspora Religions Group and Indigenous Religious Traditions Group

and Native Traditions in the Americas Group and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group, November 22.

Humanitarian Ethics, Religious Affinities, and the Politics of Dissent, Religions and Diaspora and Global Affairs Symposium, University of California, Riverside, CA
“Religion and Resistance in Transnational Native and Tibetan Communities.” October 2.

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Western Region), Santa Clara, CA

“Interdependence as a Lifeway: The Metaphysical Roots of Self-Determination in Transnational Tibetan Communities.” Asian American Religious Studies, March 22.

2014 **Native American Studies Graduate Student Symposium, University of California, Davis, CA**

“Interdependence as a Lifeway: Religious Persistence and Indigenous Futurities in Native America.” Panel: Spirit Lines, Strength Lines and Knowledge: Indigenous Philosophy and Religion, April 17.

National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies Conf., Salt Lake City, UT

“Interdependence as a Lifeway: Religious Persistence and Indigenous Futurities in a Native/Chicano Community.” Panel: Nepantitlan: Indigeneity in Chican@ Studies, April 10.

2013 **Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, Chicago, IL**

“Interdependence as a Lifeway: Religiosity as Social Justice in Transnational Indigenous American Communities.” Panel: Religion, Ethnicity and the Nation-State – Part I, September 19.

2012 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL**

“Interdependence as a Lifeway: The Metaphysical Roots of Social Justice in Transnational Native Communities.” Native Traditions in the Americas, November 20.

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Uncasville, CT

“Interdependence in the Land of Enchantment: The Metaphysical Roots of Self-Determination among Transnational Native Communities.” Panel: Religion, Sovereignty and Revitalization in Native America, June 5. (Panel Organizer and Chair)

2010 **Conference of Ford Fellows, Irvine, CA**

“Postcolonial Healing: Indigenous Concepts of Power and Strategies for Self-Determination.” Philosophy and Religion Session, October 16.

2009 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, Canada**

“Forming Alliances for Healing Post-Colonial Wounds.” Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching and Activism Group, November 8.

Conference of Ford Fellows, Irvine, CA

“Indigenous Metaphysics and Ontological Healing.” Philosophy and Religion Session, October 17.

2008 **Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL**

“My Sister, My Brother, My Mother, My Father: Animals in Native Traditions, A Window to Indigenous Ontology.” Native American Religious Traditions cross-listed with Animals and Religion Group, November 3.

Intramural Talks

2020 **CU Museum of Natural History and the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies, Boulder, CO (virtual)**

A Conversation on Braiding Sweetgrass and Indigenous Ecological Perspectives, Panel Discussion, December 1.

University of Colorado Boulder Dance Department, Boulder, CO (virtual)

“Discussing Oppression, Racism, Intersectionality, White Supremacy, and Heteropatriarchy.” CU Dance Connection (CUDC) Discussion, October 9.

University of Colorado Boulder Environmental Studies Program, Boulder, CO (virtual)

“Earth Justice: Indigenous Stewardship.” Environmental Studies Colloquium, October 7.

University of Colorado Boulder Miramontes Arts and Sciences Program, Boulder CO

“Claiming Space in the Academy.” Meet the Professor Series, January 30.

2017 **TEDx Connecticut College, New London, CT**

“Interdependence as a Living Ethic.” April 1.

Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C.

“Native American Activism.” Women and Activism course, spring break fieldtrip, March 12.

2016 **Connecticut College Religious Studies Department, New London, CT**

“Religious Resistance and Tibetan Identity.” Religious Studies Colloquium, April 14.

Office of Spiritual Life and the Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, Connecticut College, New London, CT

Commonalities of Faith, Panel Discussion, January 28.

2015 **Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Connecticut College, New London, CT**

“Historical Trauma: From Genocide to the Streets: Surviving a World You Were Never Meant to Survive.” Minding the Gap Series, November 3.

- 2014 **American Indian and Indigenous Collective Research Group, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA**
 “Interdependence as a Lifeway: Urban Indians and Decolonization.” November 9.
- 2011 **Interdisciplinarity and the Study of Religion Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA**
 “Indigenous Theory Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries.” Panel: Challenging Disciplinary Boundaries, May 28.
- 2011 **Chican@ Studies Dept. Colloquium, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA**
 “Religion and Postcolonial Healing in Native North America.” May 25.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, CU Boulder

Coloniality, Historical Trauma, & Decolonial Healing (Spring 2021)
 American Indian Religious Traditions (Spring 2021)
 Foundations of Ethnic Studies (Fall 2020)

Postdoctoral Fellow, CU Boulder

Indigenous Thought & Theory (Fall 2019)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Connecticut College

Global Indigenities: Religion and Resistance (Fall 2017/2015)
 Native American Religious Traditions (Fall 2017/2016/2015)
 Earth Justice: Indigenous Stewardship Around the Globe (Fall 2017/2016)
 Personal Enlightenment and Social Justice (Spring 2017)
 Chicana/Latina Religions and Spirituality (Spring 2018/2017)
 Religion and Healing (Spring 2018/2017/2016)
 Theories in the Study of Religion (Fall 2016/2015)
 Lived Religion (Spring 2018/2016)
 Religion and the Spirit of Politics (Spring 2016)

Pedagogy Workshops

- 2021 Villanova University, Theology and Religious Studies Department, Villanova, PA (virtual)
 “Global Religious Experience.” Reimagining the Classroom Experience. Anti-racist pedagogies workshop. Discussion Facilitator, March 12.
- 2017 Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket, CT
 “Critiques of Sustainability.” Social Justice and Sustainability research group. Workshop Facilitator, August 9.
- 2016 F.R.E.S.H. New London, New London, CT
 “Food Sovereignty in Native America.” Facilitated workshop for a local food justice program, which included their staff and summer youth cohort, July 15.

SERVICE

Service to Profession

2017 – Present **American Academy of Religion – Steering Committee**
Native Traditions in the Americas Unit

2009 – 2015 **American Academy of Religion – Steering Committee**
Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism Group

University Service

2020 – Present **CU Boulder, Community Safety Task Force on Police Oversight**

2020 – Present **CU Boulder, Faculty Council Women’s Committee**

2019 – Present **CU Boulder, Boulder Faculty Assembly and Diversity Committee**

2017 – 2018 **Connecticut College, Faculty Development Seminar on Advising First Year Students**
Develops strategies for advising diverse first-year students.

2016 – 2018 **Connecticut College – Calendar Committee**
Sets academic calendar dates for the upcoming academic year.

2016 – 2018 **Connecticut College, M.E.Ch.A. – Faculty Adviser**

2016 – 2018 **Connecticut College, Diversity Coalition – Faculty Adviser**
Diversity Coalition is a student organization that mobilizes students against sexism/ racism/ homophobia/ transphobia through an intersectional framework.

2015 – 2018 **Connecticut College, S.H.E. program – Mentor**
Share, Hear, & Empower connects underrepresented first-year female students with underrepresented faculty and staff who mentor them for the academic year.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH

2020 Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO (virtual)
Decolonizing Systems, Decolonizing Minds. Panel discussion, September 9.

Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO (virtual)
Antiracism in a System Built Upon Racism: Diverse Colorado Authors in Conversation,
Panel discussion, June 14.

2019 Jaipur Literature Festival Colorado, Boulder, CO
Wordscapes: Latinx Voices. Panel discussion, September 22.

LANGUAGES

Literary and colloquial Tibetan

Spanish

French

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

American Studies Association

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

Critical Ethnic Studies Association

American Indigenous Research Association

National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies

Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social