

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES
FEMINIST RESEARCH SPEAKERS SERIES 2016–2017 PRESENTS

THE 2016 DALLAS CULLEN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples: Continued Colonization, Sexualization, and Legal Manipulation

a lecture by Dr. Lisa Monchalin

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Lecture: Telus Centre 150, 5:00–6:30
Reception: Telus Atrium, 6:30–7:30

Abstract:

Indigenous peoples are vastly overrepresented in the Canadian criminal justice system. This development is not new. It has been well documented for decades. The Canadian government has framed this disproportionate victimization and criminalization as being an “Indian problem.” It is argued that crimes and injustices affecting Indigenous peoples must be understood within the context of Canada’s shameful history, and the unchanged colonial goals of original forefathers—those which attempt to silence voices, histories, and cultures of Indigenous peoples—and continue and uphold racism, and patriarchy. These ideas and misrepresentations have permeated institutions, infused today’s value systems, and have become embedded in western media and culture. The consequences of assimilation policies, dishonoured treaty agreements, manipulative legislation, the sexualization of Indigenous women, and systematic racism are analyzed, arguing that the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the Canadian criminal justice system is not an Indian problem but a colonial one.

Biography:

Dr. Lisa Monchalin teaches in the Department of Criminology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, BC. She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University where she obtained her Bachelor’s degree in 2004 and her Master’s degree in 2006, both in Criminology. In 2012, she graduated with her Doctorate in Criminology from the University of Ottawa, making her the first Indigenous woman in Canada to hold a Ph.D. in Criminology. Lisa is of Algonquin, Métis, Huron, and Scottish descent. Proud of her Indigenous heritage, and driven by personal and family experiences, she is determined to reduce the amount of crime that affects Indigenous peoples through education.

Dr. Monchalin is the author of *The Colonial Problem: An Indigenous Perspective on Crime and Injustice in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 2016). She has also published in scholarly journals including the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *Crime Prevention and Community Safety: an International Journal*, and *La Revue Criminologie*, and has published chapters in books, including the 2016 edition of *Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Aboriginal Peoples in Canada*, edited by David Long and Olive Dickason published with Oxford University Press.

Lisa speaks nationally and internationally on her academic work in an effort to effect change and seek justice for Indigenous peoples.



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