

the department of
women's & gender studies

feminist research
speaker series

presents

THE 4TH ANNUAL

VALENTINE'S
DAY

WITH

FEMINISM

LECTURE

TRACY BEAR

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
NATIVE STUDIES / WGS
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

**INDIGENOUS EROTICA:
THE PURSUIT OF REIMAGINING INDIGENOUS
BODIES, SEXUALITY, & GENDER**

In the realm of Indigenous erotics, re-imagining encompasses acts of nonconformity, resistance, and subversion. These are alternative ways of envisioning the past, present and future. Indigenous writers and artists are generating new landscapes, and new possibilities of "Indigenous subjectivity, sociality, and spatiality ... a process of creating newness from existing materials, seemingly out of nowhere" (Rifkin 99). While Rifkin states these new possibilities come from seemingly 'nowhere', there is in fact, a rich Indigenous archive from which to draw from and these landscapes are the collective Indigenous identity stemming from individual and collective experiences of Indigenous people. Re-imaginings do not conform to the current logics of settler colonial power; they resist the colonial 'managing' of Indians by the Indian Act and avoid impositions of legal definitions of our selves. Re-imaginings are also subversive actions taken up by Indigenous authors to disrupt colonial stereotypes. This talk presents Indigenous erotics as a state of re-imagining the corporeal coalescence of our sexualities, genders, histories, memories and emotions, and functions as a powerful decolonizing mechanism.

Tracy Bear is Assistant Professor cross-appointed with the Faculty of Native Studies and Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Her dissertation, *Power In My Blood: Corporeal Sovereignty Through a Praxis of Indigenous Eroticanalysis*, won the Governor General Gold Medal award in 2016. She is a Cree scholar from the Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. Her research areas are rooted in decolonial methodologies often found within Indigenous Studies. Specifically, she engages in the areas of: Indigenous Erotics & Eroticanalysis; Indigenous Feminism, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Sovereignty, Land & Body Politics; and Contemporary Indigenous Art.

14 FEBRUARY 2017, 15:30 – 17:00
SENATE CHAMBER (3-26 ARTS)

reception to follow



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S
AND GENDER STUDIES