



On Native Grounds: Studies of Native American Histories and the Land

An NEH Summer Institute sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association,
in residence at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

June 12- June 30, 2017

Project Co-Directors:

Laraine A. Fletcher, Ph.D., Professor emerita, Anthropology, Adelphi University

George L. Scheper, Ph.D. Senior Lecturer, Advanced Academic Programs, Johns Hopkins University; emeritus, Humanities, Community College of Baltimore County

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your interest in our National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute “On Native Grounds: Studies of Native American Histories and the Land.” Our three-week project will be in residence at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., from June 12 through July 30, 2017, hosted by the Kluge Center for Scholarly Research. Our Institute is sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA), and we welcome applications from full or part-time faculty of two-year community colleges and tribal colleges, as well as applicants from four-year colleges and universities, as well as from archivists, independent scholars, and graduate students in a humanities discipline. The application deadline is March 1, 2017, and you will find all necessary information on our website at <http://NativeGrounds2017.com> . There, along the left-hand margin of our homepage, you will see buttons that will take you to all necessary contact information, as well as information about the structure and content of the program, eligibility, and how to apply.

In this informal letter from the project directors, we would like to introduce ourselves and to offer you a more personalized account of the “Native Grounds” program, and we extend to you our warm invitation to consider applying. The two of us who are directing the project – George Scheper and Laraine Fletcher -- have worked together co-directing many NEH Institutes sponsored by CCHA.

This will be the twelfth Institute co-directed by Laraine Fletcher and the fifteenth Institute directed or co-directed by George Scheper. For more than twenty years, Laraine (Professor emerita, Anthropology, Adelphi University) has been involved in archaeological fieldwork in Mexico and Central America; she is author of numerous publications, especially relating to settlement pattern research, and she regularly taught courses on Mesoamerican and Native American topics. George (Senior Lecturer in Advanced Academic Programs, Johns Hopkins University, and Professor emeritus of Humanities, Community College of Baltimore County) regularly teaches interdisciplinary humanities courses for the Center for Liberal Arts at Johns Hopkins, and also for New York University's School of Professional Studies, and he is a frequent lecturer for Smithsonian Associates in Washington, D.C.

This Institute offers a splendid opportunity for teacher/scholars in the humanities, especially those from institutions without major research facilities, to become immersed in the nation's greatest archival library, with full access to all the special collections that are relevant to Native American studies. Participants will have access to the guidance of the professional staff of the Library of Congress in pursuit of each Summer Scholar's own research agenda relevant to our Institute topic. Our stay in Washington, D.C. provides access as well to other important nearby facilities, such as the National Archives, and the research venues of the Smithsonian Institutions, including the Museum of the American Indian. In addition to affording time to pursue individual research projects in Native American cultural and historical studies, there will be both structured and unstructured time to share with the other Summer Scholars new ideas about research, teaching, and curricular development.

At the core of the "Native Grounds" program is a series of seminars that will give participants the opportunity to engage in conversations with scholars whose groundbreaking publications have contributed to fundamental re-conceptualizations of American Studies. Seminars will be led by: **Matthew Babcock** (History, University of North Texas at Dallas); **Tracy L. Brown** (Anthropology, Central Michigan University); **Colin Gordon Calloway** (Native American Studies, Dartmouth College); **Pekka Hämäläinen** (Oxford Centre for Research in US History); **Michael E. Harkin** (Anthropology, University of Wyoming); **Sergie Kan** (Anthropology and Native American Studies, Dartmouth College); **Amy Lonetree** [Ho-Chunk] (Humanities/History, University of California Santa Cruz); **Michael McDonnell** (History, University of Sydney); **Gregory Smithers** (History, Virginia Commonwealth University); and **Michael Witgen** [Red Cliff Ojibwe] (American Culture & History, University of Michigan).

Interdisciplinary seminar topics will range from ethno-historical and cultural studies to cartographic analyses; regional, local and tribal histories; constitutional and legal issues of jurisprudence; treaty-making and treaty-breaking; and local, state and national policy in relation to Native Nations. Our Institute thus provides the opportunity for Summer Scholars to become intimately acquainted with the Library of Congress's vast resources, in a collaborative collegial environment marked by sharing of ideas at periodic seminars and roundtables with our Visiting Faculty Scholars and with the Library's own collection specialists.

A Note on Institute Stipend and Lodging

A stipend of \$2,700 (taxable) is intended to help defray participant costs of travel, meals, and lodging. Housing in Washington, D.C. is expensive; so in order to secure the most economical arrangement, as well as to facilitate a convenient and collegial setting, we have reserved the lodging arrangement below on a double occupancy basis at a group rate group of \$2100 per person for a 20-night stay, leaving a remaining stipend cash balance of \$650. These advance reservations do not allow us to accommodate spouses or others within these arrangements, but participants may secure alternative housing if they wish.

The Institute will be held on-site for four weeks at the Library of Congress, hosted by the John W. Kluge Center. Access to the Library is greatly facilitated by collegial Institute lodgings at the newly renovated Capitol Hill Hotel, located within a block of the Library. For those opting to accept our pre-arranged lodging plan for 20 nights at the Capitol Hill Hotel, participants will be

accommodated in very spacious double-occupancy suites, with full kitchen facilities, daily breakfast, and complimentary wine-hour on weekdays. Participants in previous Institutes took full advantage of these facilities as a convenient venue to continue the discussions of the day's seminar topics among themselves and with the visiting scholars, gatherings which often segued into groups forming for dinner arrangements at nearby restaurants.

This lodging arrangement maximizes convenient access to the Library, especially for the three days a week that the Library has evening hours, and facilitates the collegiality that we believe is a major component of this experience. For additional information on the hotel you can visit their website at <http://capitolhillhotel-dc.com>.

A Note on Institute Readings and Commitment to the Project

"On Native Grounds" is directed at expanding participants' intellectual horizons in Native American studies, and facilitating familiarity with the archival resources available at the Library of Congress, and at opening up new curricular and research agendas. We have a core reading list of required books, to be acquired by participants on their own; these works are key to an understanding of the overall intellectual thrust of the program. Other readings listed in the Daily Schedule will be posted on an e-Reserve system set up by Johns Hopkins University Library (for which accepted participants will be given an individual password). We'd like to stress how greatly it will contribute to the success of the project, and to help ensure a high level of informed discussion, if accepted participants undertake as much of the required reading as can realistically be done in advance.

We wish you all the best and look forward to hearing from you. If you have additional questions about the structure or content of our Institute, please contact David Berry, above, or one of the project directors at either of our addresses below, and for further information, please consult our project website at: [http:// NativeGrounds2017.com](http://NativeGrounds2017.com).

We thank you for your interest, and we look forward to receiving your application and to assembling a vibrant group of committed teacher/scholars for an intense and exciting learning experience.

Sincerely,

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