Indigenous Research Methodologies for Museum Studies...

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Increasing Awareness of Indigenous Perspectives in Postcolonialist Research Communities.
What I have Learned . . .

- What I have learned, about the relationship between established Euro-Western approaches to museum practice in England and Indigenous Ways of Knowing.
Increasing Awareness of Indigenous Perspectives in Euro-Western Culture

- Relationship between established Euro-Western approaches to museum practice in England and Indigenous Ways of Knowing.
- Lessons from *Coyote Falls in Love with a Star*.
- Five Regions of Apprehension of Indigenous Research Methodology in Museum and Heritage Studies.
- Spatial relationships as political landscapes.
- Promising approaches to IRM for community sustainability, heritage studies and museums.
Coyote Falls in Love with a Star
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Lessons from Coyote Falls in Love with a Star

- Why the Coyote Nation sing and why we are guided by stars;
- Origin story for Lake Gii-was; called Crater Lake by the English;
- Connects the listener not only with the imagined, but with specific physical places . . . spatial relationships are political;
- Strong messages about accountability;
- Ambition is often requires sacrifice;
- Dance partners don’t always value the same things as we do or have the same priorities that we ourselves have.
Two Lessons Learned . . .

• The two lessons from Coyote Falls in Love with a Star that I want to reflect upon primarily today are:

• —Firstly, the need to clearly communicate and share priorities: to be aware of and recognize miscommunication when it is happening. Sometimes in collaborative work, communities and individuals have differing expectations; it is possible to like or admire someone while not sharing their priorities.

• —Secondly, that political experience is spatial; the physical and social distance between individuals and organizations works synergistically to enhance or diminish sustainable relationships.
Regions of Apprehension

• I use the word ‘apprehension’ in three ways:

• 1. to understand or comprehend,

• 2. to be fearful or intensely concerned,

• 3. to take hold of or administrate.

• In accepting IRM for museum studies there is potentially a great deal of fear in the Euro-Western museums community concerning the administrative control of museum collections.
Five Regions of Apprehension Museum and Heritage Studies.

- Five Regions of Apprehension of Indigenous Research Methodology in Museum and Heritage Studies include:

  1. There are communities and researchers that identify with and follow Indigenous Research Methodology principles;

  2. Communities and researchers that follow IRM principles but do not formally identify with Indigenous Research Methodology;

  3. Non-Indigenous researchers that follow Indigenous Research Methodology principles;

  4. Researchers that actively oppose acceptance of Indigenous Research Methodology;

  5. Non-Indigenous communities and researchers that work in collaboration with Indigenous communities enacting as a form of translation or social commentary.
Spatial Relationships are Political

- Sustainable relationships in Museum and Heritage Studies are correlative to spatial, political landscapes and perception.
Traditional Practices, Collaboration and New Media.

- A few examples of promising current approaches to IRM for community sustainability, heritage studies and museums:

  - Janine Bowechop and Patricia Ericson's *Forging Indigenous Methodologies on Cape Flattery: The Makah Museum as a Center of Collaborative Research.*

  - Participatory Video such as the social networking of videographer Jemimah Maitei Kerengi, Maasai.

  - Use of mobile technology to coordinate information such as John Thekkayyam’s ‘Radio Monsoon’ network of fishermen in India.

  - Use of mobile applications such as FirstVoices as an educational support that allows for ease of texting and language practice using Indigenous character script.

  - Use of websites such as http://www.nativeweb.org/resources/museums_online_exhibits/
Kw’alanuu shamash, I am thankful!

- Open discussion, sharing of information—and things that were not talked about but that were hoped would be?
Indigenous Research Methodology for Museum Studies

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