

**WSU SJCon presents:  
The 4th Annual Social Justice Conference  
Dates: Friday, April 21, 2023  
Presented virtually with *optional* in-person opportunities at Washington State University  
Vancouver**

**Proudly Co-Sponsored by:  
WSU Vancouver Native Programs,  
WSU Vancouver Collective for Social and Environmental Justice,  
WSU Vancouver Council on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Call for Papers, Presentations, and Panels  
Native Sovereignty, Decolonization, Divestment, Reparations, and Environmental Justice:  
Constructing Coalitions at the Intersections

Treaty-protected fishing rights have played an integral role in the defeat of dozens of proposed Pacific Northwest fossil fuel infrastructure projects, as Big Oil, coal, natural gas, and methanol companies look to Pacific Northwest ports [“as a strategic and necessary asset,”](#) the most direct exit for fossil fuels headed for west coast refineries and domestic and international markets.” At a 2013 talk at Clark College, Bill McKibben described the Pacific Northwest as having “emerged as [a] great chokepoint” in the struggle for the survival of the planet as we know it. Meanwhile, frontline sea-level Indigenous communities are being forced to move to higher ground at untold cost.

As of 2022, more than “1500 institutions globally, representing over \$40 trillion in assets, have committed to some level of fossil fuel divestment,” but still more action is needed to mobilize institutions of higher education, faith communities, unions, and local and state governments to divest from fossil fuels, and other extractive industries and institutions that target Indigenous communities for exploitation, and fuel the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. The moral and political imperatives to reinvest in Indigenous communities hardest hit by extraction, exploitation, colonial violence (from law enforcement and “man camps,” etc.), sea level rise, extreme weather, and other manifestations of climate catastrophe, merit far more attention and action.

How are our various institutions implicated in the exploitation of Indigenous lands and peoples and the exclusion of Indigenous people from equitable health outcomes, education, and investment and access to traditional First Foods? How do we document, make visible, and address these harms? How do we expand, build, and maintain coalitions to divest from fossil fuels and other extractive industries/institutions, reinvest in Indigenous communities and repair the violence inherent in settler colonialism? What traditional and contemporary models of grassroots action, activism, organizing, and coalition-building can we draw from?

WSU SJCON is an interdisciplinary social justice conference launched in 2019 by WSU graduate students in coalition with BIPOC-led community groups. We are pleased to accept proposals for presentations, panels, films, creative works, and workshops that focus on pragmatic and action-based approaches to building and sustaining coalitions.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Landback and decolonizing land-grab institutions
- Intersections of divestment, reinvestment, and landback
- New/old multi-media Indigenous stories and/or art that challenge and make visible the extractive violence of settler colonialism, particularly against women, girls, and Two Spirit/Queer people (e.g. *Reservation Dogs*, *Daily Alaska*, *Three Pines*, etc.)
- Decolonizing academia/curriculum to build sustainable futures with access to First Foods/Food Sovereignty
- Organizing universities, local governments, pension funds, etc. to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in Indigenous communities
- Removing institutional barriers and creating new pathways to Indigenous participation in shaping local, regional, and national political policies and processes
- The legacies of Indigenous autonomous zones/zones of resistance (e.g. Alcatraz, Wounded Knee, Fort Lawton/Daybreak Star, Chiapas, Standing Rock, etc. )
- Intersections of extraction, climate collapse, landback, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP)
- Understanding, and building coalitions to address, the Intersections of student debt, extractivism, and land-grab universities
- Storytelling, re-storying, and the importance of narrative in addressing and repairing the harms of colonialism and climate collapse
- Accessible and inclusive activism, organizing, and social movements, including practical strategies for coalition-building
- Native-led campaigns to exonerate treaty fisher people & Leonard Peltier

Please send a **250-300-word abstract**, **3-minute video**, **single-page graphic**, or **other short explanation of your work**, and a **short biography** (no more than 100 words) to the WSU Social Justice Conference planning committee at [wsusjcon@gmail.com](mailto:wsusjcon@gmail.com) by February 28th, 2022. Works in progress are very welcome! Please note in the body of your email if you prefer to present virtually or in-person from the WSU Vancouver campus.

The 4rd annual WSU Social Justice Conference will be offered virtually via Zoom with in-person networking and workshop opportunities available at the WSU Vancouver campus.