

[View this Newsletter in your Browser](#)

# AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY Library & Museum

## APS Center for Native American and Indigenous Research Newsletter

---

Here at the [Center for Native American and Indigenous Research](#) we are enjoying the birds and flowers of spring, and preparing for our busy summer season, with our Summer Undergraduate Interns, Digital Knowledge Sharing Workshop, and many visits from community-based researchers!

What's in this Newsletter:

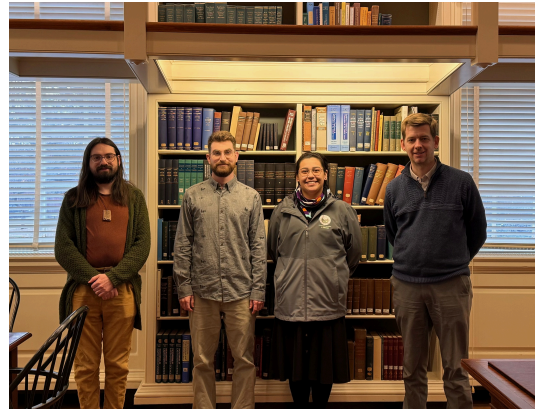
- CNAIR Spotlight: Kanaka Bar ICRF visit
- Upcoming Events & Opportunities
- Comings and Goings
- Introducing our 2025-2026 NASI Fellows and Interns
- Collection Updates
- We invite you to submit news from our network!

To receive these CNAIR newsletters please [join our mailing list](#).

We also invite you to join our new [CNAIR Facebook Group](#) to get all the latest updates!

## CNAIR Spotlight: Kanaka Bar ICRF visit

In February we were honored to host Sean O'Rourke and Mary-Jo Michell of the Lands Department of the Kanaka Bar Indian Band in British Columbia. The people of Kanaka Bar (T'eqt'aqtn'mux - the crossing place people) are one of 15 communities that comprise the Nlaka'pamux Nation. They visited the APS Library to research archival materials from their community and other Nlaka'pamux communities in the early 20th century field notes of anthropologist and guide James Teit. Their trip was made possible with the Society's [Indigenous Community Research Fund](#).



## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

### ¡El Fondo de Investigación para Comunidades Indígenas (ICRF), en español!

Hemos traducido al español los materiales para esta importante oportunidad. La [página web](#) y el formulario para enviar la carta de intención ahora cuentan con traducciones en español, y se aceptarán propuestas en español o inglés. La convocatoria está abierta todo el año hasta agotar los recursos.

### Indigenous Learning Forum Call for Proposals

The [Indigenous Learning Forum](#) invites proposals for our 2025-2026 monthly virtual speaker series. To submit a proposal, please [submit your materials](#) by Monday, May 19, 2025. Proposals will be accepted in English or Spanish.

El [Foro de Aprendizaje Indígena](#) invita a presentar propuestas para nuestra serie de conferencias virtuales mensuales 2025-2026. Para presentar una propuesta, [envíe sus materiales](#) antes del lunes 19 de mayo de 2025. Se aceptarán propuestas en inglés o español.

**Final 2024-2025  
Indigenous Learning Forum: May 8**



Join us on May 8 for the final ILF presentation of the spring. Anca Wilkening, Velma Noah-Nicholas and Ian McCallum will share their work on "'Akiinziitookw - Let's Read Together!' Collaborative Interpretation of Moravian Munsee Lenape Manuscripts and Ancestral Voices at Harvard's Houghton Library". Read more and [register here.](#)

## Recording of March 20 Indigenous Learning Forum

The recording for the March 20th Indigenous Learning Forum: "Activating Nuxalk Ancestral Governance to Protect the Nuxalk Language with the American Philosophical Society (APS)" with Emily Jean Leischner is now available.

You can access it on our [YouTube channel!](#)



## Comings and Goings

### Cocopah/Cucapáh Language Project

In the third week of April, we were very honored to have three researchers visiting from Baja California, Mexico, to work with the extensive Cocopah/Cucapáh language archival materials in the James Crawford Papers! The researchers were Fernando David Márquez Duarte, Lorenia Gutiérrez Moreto Cruz, and Alejandro Maclis Valenzuela.

Señor Valenzuela is the son of Cucapáh elder Margarita Valenzuela Portillo, from Ejido Cucapáh Mestizo, who, at the age of 97, is a community leader and the one remaining speaker of Cucapáh in Baja California. They worked with the extremely extensive language documentation done by James Crawford with the Cocopah speakers in Arizona in the 1960s and 1970s to begin adding language information to the body of Cucapáh language resources they have been creating as part of the language preservation project.



They also generously donated three booklets on Cucapáh language and knowledge that they have created over the last few years. Their visit was made possible by the APS Indigenous Community Research Fund.

---

## CNAIR Visits New Mexico

At the beginning of April, Curator of Indigenous Materials, Brian Carpenter, travelled to northern New Mexico to visit with two Pueblo communities, one that the APS has been working with for a long time, and another for which this was a first introductory visit to bring information about archival materials about their community from 100 years ago that are at the APS Library.



Brian also met with a representative from a third Pueblo with whom CNAIR is also beginning to work on a collaborative project. We hope to be able to share more about these visits and collaborations in the future.

---

## Welcome Fátima!

In January, CNAIR welcomed [Dr. Fátima Valdivia Ramírez](#), who joined us as our newest Mellon Foundation Native American Scholars Initiative Career Pathways Fellow. Fátima is a Mexican scholar in Latin American Studies, law, and social anthropology, who specializes in Indigenous rights.



While at the APS she is continuing her long-term collaboration with Rarámuri communities in the Tarahumara region of northern Mexico, as well as immersing herself in the work we do here at CNAIR and connecting with other Philadelphia-area institutions. In particular, she is helping us expand our outreach and support to Spanish-speaking researchers and communities!

## Introducing our 2025-2026 NASI Fellows and Interns

Over the next few months, we're looking forward to working with our stellar new cohort of NASI fellows and interns!

### Postdoctoral Fellow

**Bruno Seraphin** is an assistant professor in the departments of Anthropology and Social and Critical Inquiry at the University of Connecticut. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from Cornell University and a BFA in Film and Television from NYU. Since 2018, he has partnered with the Karuk Tribe on multimedia and community-collaborative environmental justice research, examining the politics of wildfire crisis and Indigenous fire management.



---

### Predocctoral Fellow

**Cynthia Wilson** (Diné) is pursuing her doctorate degree at UC Berkeley in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. A nutritionist by training, her research centers interdisciplinary approaches to Indigenous environmental health, mobility, and foodways. Since 2016, she co-led community-based traditional food and ancestral land advocacy efforts at Bears Ears National Monument.



---

### Summer Undergraduate Interns



(Left to right)

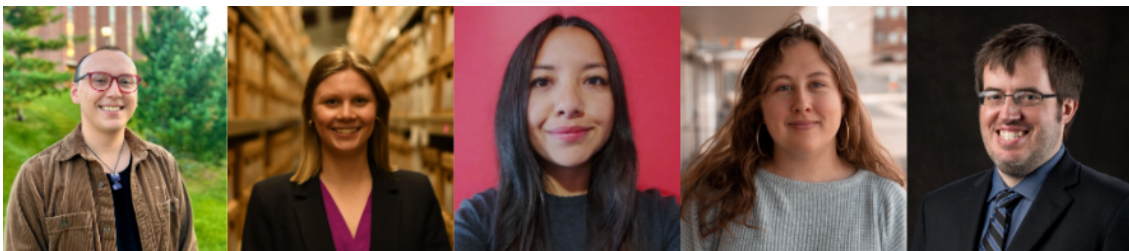
**Avery Yara London** is an Okinawan (Uchinaanchu) islander with roots in Nago and K'taaku. He is a rising junior at Pomona College, pursuing a dual bachelor's in Linguistics and International Relations. His research centers on indigenous language reclamation and language sovereignty, both within traditional homelands and displaced diaspora.

**Amber Nobriga** (Kanaka Maoli) is a rising junior at Yale University from Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu double majoring in Economics and Ethnicity, Race, and Migration. At Yale, she is the president of the Indigenous Peoples of Oceania student organization and is a section editor for the Features desk at the Yale Herald. Amber is also a Mellon Mays and Edward A. Bouchet Fellow researching the ties between the invention of the atom bomb and the rise in the desecration of Native Hawaiian sacred places and burials in the 50s and 60s.

**Azalea Cisco**, a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, is a third-year BFA student in Museum Studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Their research focuses on the Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache peoples, utilizing archival databases to lay the groundwork for a future archives center on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. Azalea is deeply committed to Indigenous data sovereignty, traditional knowledge, and the reclamation and honoring of ancestral stories, with a vision of sharing this knowledge with Mescalero youth.

---

## Digital Knowledge Sharing Fellows



(Left to right)

**'Building a Tsimshian Bibliography and Resource Guide for Cultural Revitalization'**

**Brandon Castle** is a member of the Ketchikan Indian Community and is from Ketchikan, Alaska. He lives in Amherst, Massachusetts and is a librarian at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he supports Native American & Indigenous Studies research. Brandon is interested in building greater awareness of collections for Indigenous communities.

**‘Digitizing Archival Collections for Alaska Native Knowledge Repatriation: A Collaborative Project with Kawerak Inc.’**

**Lily McEwen** is a Geography Master’s student at the University of Missouri Columbia. She has conducted research in the digital heritage preservation sector since 2022 and in full collaboration with Alaska Native Tribes. Her MA research focuses on using GIS technologies to identify and map Alaska Native collections in Midwest museums.

**‘From the analysis of a collection of traditional narrations to its appropriation by the Mixtec indigenous community’**

**María Angélica García Hernández** has a PhD in Anthropology and Linguistics. She studies Indigenous collective self-perception and narratives, focusing on self-denigration. Her fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico, engages with her own Mixtec community. More recently, her work has centered on fostering dialogue between scientific research and Indigenous knowledge systems, through digital tools, promoting co-creation and collaborative knowledge sharing.

**‘Mapping Indigenous Kentucky’**

**Nikki Wilcox** is the University NAGPRA Specialist at Western Kentucky University and an archaeologist by training. Her work focuses on ethical collaboration with Indigenous communities, cultural heritage protection, and repatriation. She has experience in academic, museum, and field settings, with a commitment to respectful, community-centered archaeological and repatriation practices.

**Alexander Olson** is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the History Department at Western Kentucky University, where he serves on the NAGPRA and Tribal Relations committee. He is co-author, with Philip J. Deloria, of *American Studies: A User’s Guide* (University of California Press, 2017).

## Collection Updates

The Curator of Indigenous Materials, Brian Carpenter, recently drove to the Albany area to pick up a donation of additions to the Floyd Lounsbury Papers and Terrence Kaufman Papers. The 20+ boxes of Lounsbury materials include more extensive documentation of his involvement in the deciphering of Mayan hieroglyphic writings, as well as his career as a scholar of Iroquoian languages. The 14 boxes of Kaufman materials include an extensive set of books on Indigenous languages of southern Mexico and Guatemala, as well as some fieldwork documentation of the languages of those regions.



## News from our Network

Our 2023-2025 NASI Career Pathways Postdoctoral Fellow, [Emily Jean Leischner](#), has a new piece of writing in the forthcoming edited volume: [Collaboration and Co-Creation in Museums, Heritage, and the Arts](#). The book chapter she worked on, Nuyayanlh, Learning How to Heal with Heritage, is co-written with Snxakila Clyde Tallio and Jennifer Kramer.

### Submit your news!

Would you like to share your news and opportunities with the CNAIR network? You can submit items for future newsletters through [this form](#).

---



---

*Copyright © 2025, American Philosophical Society, All rights reserved.*

**American Philosophical Society**

104 South Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

215-440-3400

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Not subscribed? [Go here to join our mailings](#).

**\*\*Please refrain from unsubscribing if this email was forwarded to you\*\***