

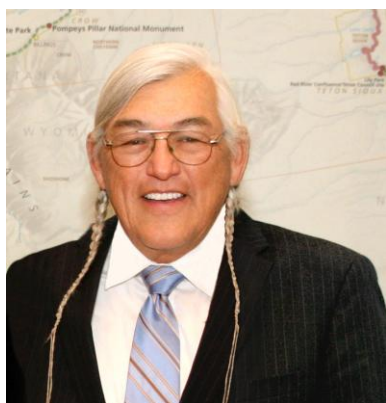
## Keynote Speakers

2019



### Manu Karuka

Manu Karuka is the author of *Empire's Tracks: Indigenous Nations, Chinese Workers, and the Transcontinental Railroad* (University of California Press, 2019). He is a co-editor, with Juliana Hu Pegues and Alyosha Goldstein, of "On Colonial Unknowing," a special issue of *Theory & Event*, and with Vivek Bald, Miabi Chatterji, and Sujani Reddy, he is a co-editor of *The Sun Never Sets: South Asian Migrants in an Age of U.S. Power* (NYU Press, 2013). His work appears in *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *J19*, *Settler Colonial Studies*, *The Settler Complex: Recuperating Binarism in Colonial Studies* (UCLA American Indians Studies Center, 2016, edited by Patrick Wolfe), and *Formations of United States Colonialism* (Duke University Press, 2014, edited by Alyosha Goldstein). He is an assistant professor of American Studies at Barnard College.



### Gerard Baker (Hidatsa)

Mr. Baker was born and raised on his father's cattle ranch located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in western North Dakota. Mr. Baker is a full-blood member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, which includes the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara. He spent his early years being raised in a very traditional manner, learning his culture from his older Clan relatives through oral history. Mr. Baker began his NPS career in 1979 as a park technician at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in North Dakota. Many years later, as Superintendent of the Trail, Mr. Baker led the planning, development and operations of the "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future" project to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition during the years 2003-2006. He was instrumental in fostering partnerships with tribes, garnering their support and ultimately giving them a platform to speak, unencumbered, to the American public about their experiences as Native people. He went on to become the Superintendent of Mount Rushmore and the Assistant Director for American Indian Relations in Washington, D.C., before retiring in 2010 with over 34-years of service.

## Speakers

2019

### Thelma Antonio (Laguna Pueblo)

Thelma Antonio is a member of the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico. As an Environmental and Community Planner, she has a passion for historic preservation. Her background in Architecture and Planning gave her the start to write a preservation plan for her village which inspired her to expand on the coming of the railroad and the development of five Laguna colonies from Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Richmond, California. She is here to tell the story of the Laguna people and their contribution to the railroad.

## **Laura Barraclough**

Laura Barraclough is an Associate Professor of American Studies at Yale University. Her scholarship examines the relationships between land, identity, and power. Her most recent book is: *Charros: How Mexican Cowboys are Remapping Race and American Identity*. Currently she is working on a book about how Native communities and communities of color are using the national historic trail system to disrupt colonial narratives of U.S. History and tell their own stories.

## **Thomas Blampied**

Thomas Blampied is a Ph.D. student in the history department at the University of Toronto. His work examines railway development in Northern Ontario and its impact on Indigenous communities. He first became interested in railways in Northern Ontario in 2012 when the Ontario government attempted to privatize the Ontario Northland Railway. This led him to research and publish, *Call of the Northland*, a book about the issue, in 2014. His doctoral research developed after a class on the treaty history of Canada allowed him to examine how transportation connected with Treaty 9 in Northern Ontario.

## **Adae Romero Briones (Chochiti / Kiowa)**

Adae Romero Briones was born and raised in Pueblo de Chochiti, New Mexico and is the current Director of Programs for the First Nations Development Institute.

## **Michael Connolly Miskwish. M.A. (Campo Kumeyaay Nation)**

Michael is a member and former Councilman of the Campo Kumeyaay nation. He has authored many papers on tribal economics, Kumeyaay history and resource management. Michael has three published books on Kumeyaay history and cosmology. He has curated exhibits on Kumeyaay culture and history for the national Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Man in San Diego, California. Michael holds a Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering and a Master of Arts in Economics. He is an adjunct lecturer in American Indian Studies at San Diego State University.

## **Dr. Erik D. Gooding**

Dr. Gooding is a Full Professor at Minnesota State University in the Anthropology program. He is a Linguistic and Cultural Anthropologist who has been working with the Meshwaki people of east central Iowa for several decades. His current research focuses on the Meshwaki worldview, focusing on geospatial understandings, semiotics, ethnosemantics, intra- and intergroup networks and relationships, cultural-environmental relationships, and the arts.

## **Alexandria Gough**

Alexandria Gough is a faculty member at Thaden School, and independent school in Bentonville, Arkansas. She has nearly completed her doctorate in Native American History from the University of Oklahoma. Her dissertation investigates Osage sovereignty and their utilization of negotiation and diplomacy to ensure tribal cohesion and wealth development prior to oil development at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her larger interests include native sovereignty in the face of rapid changes during the Gilded and Progressive Eras.

## **Dr. Theresa Gregor (Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel)**

Dr. Theresa Gregor is from the Lipay Nation of Santa Isabel. She is Kumeyaay and Yoeme. She is an Assistant Professor in American Indian Studies at California State University in Long Beach, California.

Before her tenure track appointment at CSULB, she was an adjunct professor in the Department of American Indian Studies at CSU San Marcos and she worked as the Lead Researcher for the Californian Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center. Theresa earned her Ph.D. and M.A in English at the University of Southern California. Her doctoral research focused on the American Indian Captivity Narrative. Her current scholarship is focused on her forthcoming anthology, *Californian Indian Women: Their Lives, Stories, and Contributions* (Great Oak Press).

### **Paul High Horse (Sičánǵu Lakota)**

Paul High Horse is member of the Sicangu (Sičánǵu) Lakota tribe. Son of a Lakota father and Italian mother, Paul was born in New Jersey; however, at the age of three, his parents moved to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota so Paul and his siblings could be immersed in their native culture. He lived on the reservation until he left to attend college at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees. Paul's artistic philosophy incorporates a modern approach to communicate a rich historical context of the Lakota people. His art captures the symbols, traditions, and values inherent to the Lakota tribe. His work also explores different media including acrylics, archival pens, watercolor, and ledger paper. Paul currently teaches 7-12th grade art at Fort Calhoun Community School in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. He resides with his wife and three children in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

### **Amanda L. Katz**

Amanda Katz is a History Ph.D. candidate at Carnegie Mellon University. Her dissertation explores the Bureau of Public Roads' role in modernizing local highway infrastructure that began primarily in rural America. She has presented her work at the Urban History Association Biennial Conference and will present at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting in April of 2020. She has received fellowships from the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan; the State Historical Society of Iowa; and the Lexington Group for transportation History. Amanda also received a 2019-2020 A.W. Mellon Fellowship in Digital Humanities.

### **Teresa Montoya (Diné)**

Teresa Montoya (Diné) is a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago where she teaches courses in Native American and Indigenous Studies. She earned a Ph.D. in Anthropology from New York University where she also completed a filmmaking certificate in Culture and Media. Her research and media production focuses on legacies of settler colonialism and environmental contamination in relation to contemporary issues of tribal jurisdiction and sovereign action within and beyond the Navajo Nation.

### **Hillary Rennick JD, LLM (Pomo / Paiute)**

A member of the coast Pomo and Northern Paiute, Hillary Rennick JD, LLM, works to promote traditional foods.

### **Ben Rhodd (Rosebud Sioux)**

Mr. Rhodd is a professional archeologist with forty years of experience on the Northern Plains and the American Southwest. He sat on the World Archeological Congress Executive Board for 11 years and retired in 2002. He is currently the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Oyate) in South Dakota

## **Edmund Russell**

Edmund Russell is a professor of history at Carnegie Mellon University and president of the American Society for Environmental History. He specialized in environmental history and the history of technology. His research and teaching have won numerous prizes including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Edelstein Prize, the Rachel Carson Prize, the Leopold-Hidy Prize, and the Forum for the History of Science in America Prize. He is writing a book about the transcontinental telegraph, which was built across the West in 1861 and paved the way for the transcontinental railroad.

## **Paul R. Sando, Ph.D.**

Dr. Sando was born on the North Dakota side of the Red River of the North, and now resides on the Minnesota side of that same river. He was educated at the University of North Dakota and Indiana State University. An Economic Geographer by training, he has long standing interests in the study of railroads, agriculture, water issues, and cultural and regional geography of North America. His interest in native America was encouraged by tribal and Non-Tribal friends on reservation lands today and their adjustment to changes.

## **Sarah Del Seronde (Diné)**

Sarah Del Seronde is an instructor in the Cinema/Communications Department at Dawson College and producer for Aboriginal Lens LTD. She is from the Bennett Freeze area of the Navajo reservation, an undeveloped area of land still in ownership dispute with the Hopi Tribe. She obtained an MA degree in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. Sarah Del is director of *Metal Road* and *Making the River*, a biographical tale of an American Indian charged with the murder of a guard at the Washington State Penitentiary.

## **Donovin Sprague (Minnicoujou Lakota)**

Historical tour guide, university instructor, author, historian, and descendant of Chief's Hump and Crazy Horse. One of the keynote speakers at 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fetterman Fight at Ft. Kearney, Wyoming in 2016; Keynote speaker at 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wagon box Fight at Ft. Kearny, Wyoming, in 2017; presenter at 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Treaty of Ft. Laramie Educational Symposium at Brinton Museum in Big Horn, Wyoming; keynote speaker at U.S. Army Base, Weisbaden, Germany 2018; speaker at University of Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany; speaker at many major universities, museums, and cultural centers throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

## **Dr. Robert Voss**

Dr. Voss is an assistant professor at Northwest Missouri State University where he is the social science education coordinator and graduate chair of history. His teaching develops digital history in the university and high school classrooms including the digital project Northweststories.org. His research focuses on railroads, power, and the Indian Territory.

# Organizing Committee

2019

## **Neal Bedlan**

Neal Bedlan is the Chief of Interpretation for the Lewis and Clark NHT. Neal works to commemorate and protect the Lewis and Clark NHT. Neal was also the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Lewis and Clark

NHT from 2008-2016. Neal was previously the Federal Aid Administrator for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission where he administered the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, supervised the Recreational Trails Program and the outdoor recreational planning efforts for the State of Nebraska. Neal also served in various local government administrative positions including City Administrator for Glidden, IA and Community and Business Manager for the Beaver Lake Community. Neal is a Nebraska native and a graduate of the University of Nebraska of Omaha School of Public Administration, where he earned his Master's Degree in Public Management with an emphasis in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources from Colorado State University. He also earned his B.S. from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in Political Science

### **Ken Blansett (Cherokee / Creek / Choctaw / Shawnee / Potawatomi)**

Kent Blansett is a Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Shawnee, and Potawatomi descendant from the Blanket, Panther, and Smith families. He is an Associate Professor of History and Native American Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Professor Blansett also serves as the founder and executive director for the American Indian Digital History Project. He has published numerous articles and book chapters including: "When the Stars Fell from the Sky: The Cherokee Nation and Autonomy during the Civil War" and "San Francisco, Red Power, and the Emergence of an Indian City." His latest book, eighteen-years in the making, is the first biography to explore the dynamic life and times of Akwesasne Mohawk student leader Richard Oakes, who was a key figure in the 1969 takeover of Alcatraz Island by the organization Indians of All Tribes. Published by Yale University Press in 2018, Blansett's book entitled, *A Journey to Freedom: Richard Oakes, Alcatraz, and the Red Power Movement* highlights Oakes's pivotal role in Red Power activism from the 1960s and 1970s that sparked Native liberation movements throughout North America. Blansett's book has garnered national attention with reviews in the *Los Angeles Times*, a feature on NPR's Latino USA, and was optioned for a future movie. His scholarship has received numerous fellowships and awards including the prestigious Katrin H. Lamon Fellow with the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is currently working on three book projects: *Briefcase Warriors: A History of the Native American Rights Fund*, *Indian Cities: Histories of Indigenous Urbanism*, and another which investigates *Red Power and Popular Culture, 1945-Present*.

### **Michele Curran**

After studying Celtic Archaeology at the University of Ireland in Galway, Eire, Michele Curran earned her Ph.D. in Public History with an emphasis on American Indian history from Arizona State University. Prior to joining the NPS, Curran did consultation work with the Cultural Group of the Arizona Intertribal Council. Other key accomplishments included primary research for the initial name-change request for what became Piestewa Peak in Phoenix, Arizona, and an oral history with Clyde Bellecourt, co-founder of the American Indian Movement. Curran began her 19-year NPS career with the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) Program in the Alaska Region as a SCEP appointee before becoming the CLI Coordinator for the region. She also served as the CLI Coordinator in the Intermountain Region before accepting a historian position with the Midwest Region's History & National Register Programs. While in the NPS Alaska Region, Curran worked with the Inupiat Village of Shishmaref to get a Determination of Eligibility for Iyat (Serpentine Hot Springs) as a Traditional Cultural Property in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. In the Midwest Region, Curran has completed National Historic Landmark (NHL) nominations for the Akima Pinšīwa Awiiki in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; and for the Wyandotte National Burying Ground (Lyda Burton Conley Burial Site), in Kansas City, Kansas, with the Wyandotte Nation. Curran also conducted extensive research for a potential NHL on the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's Removal Trail. In the final months of her career with the NPS, Curran served as the Acting Program Manager for the Office of American Indian Affairs until the time of her retirement in February

2019. Dr. Curran continues to live in the Omaha area and volunteers with the NPS Midwest Region Office of American Indian Affairs.

### **Elaine Nelson**

Dr. Nelson is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she teaches courses on the American West, Native American, and Women's history. In 2017 she became the Executive Director of the Western History Association, which is housed on the UNO campus. Dr. Nelson's published work has appeared in the *Great Plains Quarterly* and forthcoming anthologies, and her first book manuscript is forthcoming from the University of Oklahoma Press. Her book is titled *Dreams and Dust in the Black Hills: Indigenous People and Tourism in the American West*, and it examines the complex history of Indigenous people, regional identity, and the tourism industry in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. Nelson has presented her work at several professional conferences and received a number of fellowships and grants for her work from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Newberry Library, Huntington Library, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, American Heritage Center, Charles Redd Center, and the American Philosophical Society. Nelson earned her Ph.D. in American Western and Comparative Indigenous history in 2011 from the University of New Mexico, an M.A. in history from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a B.A. in English Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

### **Taylor R. M. Keen (Umo<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>n</sup> / Cherokee)**

Taylor Keen is a full-time instructor in the Heider College of Business Administration in Strategy and Entrepreneurship at Creighton University and also a faculty member of Creighton Native American Studies program. Keen holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College as well as a Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration from Harvard University, where he served as a Fellow in the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. Taylor is the author of the book-in-progress entitled "Rediscovering America: Sacred Geography, the Ancient Earthen Works and an Indigenous History of Turtle Island." Known also by the name "Bison Mane" of the Earthen Bison Clan of the Omaha Tribe, Taylor is a lifelong traditionalist.

### **Patricia La Bounty**

Patricia La Bounty is the Curator of the Union Pacific Collection and Manager of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum. An employee of Union Pacific, Patricia manages one of the oldest corporate collections and museums in America. Union Pacific's collection, displayed at the Museum, draws visitors from all 50 states and more than 40 countries from around the world. She began working for the Union Pacific Railroad Museum in 2006. Patricia holds a BA in Anthropology from Whitman College, and an MA in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma.

### **Alessandra La Rocca Link**

Alessandra Link is a historian (PhD, 2018, University of Colorado-Boulder) specializing in the histories of the American West and Native North America, with a particular interest in the intersections of colonialism, culture, and technology. Her current book project, "The Iron Horse in Indian Country: Native Americans and Railroads in the U.S. West," examines how Indigenous peoples responded to railroad expansion in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her research has been supported by Southern Methodist University's Clements Center for Southwest Studies, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Huntington and Newberry libraries. In addition to her peer-reviewed work, Link has authored op-eds on the histories of corporate overreach in Native Nations and gun technologies

in the United States, and on the significance of National Endowment for the Humanities funding in her home state of Kentucky.

### **Reed Robinson (Sičánǵu Lakota)**

An enrolled citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sičánǵu Lakota), Reed Robinson is a 28-year veteran of the National Park Service and is the NPS/Midwest Regional (MWR) Tribal Relations & Indian Affairs manager. Robinson has served in nine other park service units including Superintendent of Devils Tower NM (Mato Tipila), Deputy Superintendent of Badlands NP, and recently acting NPS Tribal Liaison Officer. In addition to his expertise of historic preservation, natural resource management, and park leadership and operations, Robinson lived in seven other countries as the son of an American diplomat for 16 years. These combined experiences have provided him a broad peripheral perspective of cultural sensitivity, social justice and a diplomatic style of program delivery. The MWR's office with Robinson at the helm is dynamic, unique and is instrumental in shaping positive tribal relations across broad, multi-disciplinary areas, while advocating within the NPS the myriad tribal interests and NPS treaty/trust/statutory/etc. responsibilities to American Indians. Robinson is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School-Senior Executive Fellows.

### **Jenna Valadez**

The current Communications Officer for the Union Pacific Council of Native American Heritage (CONAH), Jenna is also a Sr. Analyst in Crew Management Services at Union Pacific Railroad. She has her BA in History from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Masters in Borderlands History with an emphasis in Native American Identity Development from Southern Methodist University. She has worked with Native American communities since 2003 through volunteer work with various organizations.

### **Desrie Valdez (Navajo)**

Desrie is To'dich'nii (Bitterwater people) born for the Ashi'hii (Salt clan). Her maternal grandparents are Kinyaa'áanii (Towering house) and her paternal grandparents are Tódí'qzhí (Salt water clan). Desrie is the current president of the Union Pacific Council of Native American Heritage (CONAH). She is third generation railroader and is originally from Tohatchi, New Mexico which is located on the Navajo reservation. She's been working in the railroad industry for 11 years.

### **Mark Weekley**

Mark Weekley currently serves as the National Park Service Superintendent for the 4900 mile Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. During the past 27 years Mark has worked for the National Park Service, holding a number of leadership positions in park planning, outdoor recreation, partnerships, and historic preservation. In these positions, he has worked on a variety of projects, including plans for National Parks, plans for small parks in rural America, and trail and greenway projects in large urban environments. Mark also served as part of a National Park Service international team working on the development of the first national park in the Middle Eastern country of Oman. Mark earned a Bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of Minnesota and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in landscape architecture from Iowa State University.