

# INDIGENOUS HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

“Perspectives on  
Reproductive Justice  
and Maternal Health”

**NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

**4 - 8PM**

**955 MAIN ST**

**BUFFALO NY 14203**

**M&T AUDITORIUM**



Jacobs School of Medicine  
and Biomedical Sciences

University at Buffalo



University at Buffalo

Department of Indigenous Studies

College of Arts and Sciences

## Program

### INDIGENOUS HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

“Perspectives on Reproductive Justice  
and Maternal Health”

**4pm to 5.30pm - WORKSHOP:** “How Do  
We Define Health?”

Moderator: Pete Hill, Special Initiatives  
Director Native American Community  
Services

**5.30pm to 6pm - DINNER**

Provided by Office of Inclusion and  
Cultural Enhancement

**6pm to 7.30pm - PANEL DISCUSSION:**

“Centering the Grassroots Work on  
Improving Maternal Health Outcomes and  
Advancing Reproductive Justice”.

Moderator: Dr. Meredith Palmer

- Brianna Theobald, PhD, Associate professor of history at the University of Rochester.
- Shavonne Stevens, CD, CLC , Certified Full Spectrum Indigenous Doula.
- Ashley Lickers, Haudenosaunee midwife.

**7.30pm to 8pm - COMMUNITY ACTION**

**WRAP-UP:** “How Do We Get Involved?”

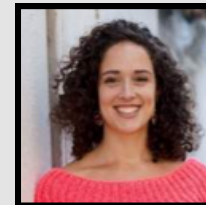
Moderators: Pete Hill and Dr. Meredith  
Palmer

## Moderators



**PETE HILL, NACS**

With over 29 years working at the Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara counties NACS as the Project Director, Pete has on substance abuse, worked suicide, and teen pregnancy prevention. His work focuses on community development, and he has devoted his efforts to understanding and overcoming residual impacts of historical trauma. He has integrated Native American cultural teachings into the organizations program design to promote wellness and healing.



**MEREDITH PALMER,  
MPH, PHD**

Dr. Palmer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies and the Department of Geography at the University at Buffalo. Her research is centered on the role of science and technology in histories of dispossession and in the ongoing colonization of Indigenous people, and particularly of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people. Dr. Palmer combines rigorous archival work, careful community commitments, and Indigenous methodologies of oral history and critical analysis to narrate genealogies of the spatial politics of colonialism and occupation among the Haudenosaunee.

# Panelists

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**BRIANNA THEOBALD,  
PHD**

Dr. Brianna Theobald is an associate professor of history and affiliate faculty in the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Rochester.

She is an award-winning teacher and researcher in the fields of U.S. women's and gender history, the history of Native America, and the history of reproduction. Her first book, *Reproduction on the Reservation: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Colonialism in the Long Twentieth Century* was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2019 and received awards from the American Society for Ethnohistory, the Coalition for Western Women's History, and the Western History Association. Theobald's research on Native women's history has appeared in academic publications including the *Journal of Women's History* and *The Pacific Historical Review*, and she has also published in venues including *Time Magazine* and the *Washington Post*. Her current book project is an Indigenous history of Oklahoma following statehood, told from the vantage point of the organizations and institutions that Indigenous women built and sustained across generations

# Panelists

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**SHAVONNE  
STEVENS, CD, CLC**

Shavonne Stevens is the founder of Love What I Doula, where she provides culturally sensitive birth and postpartum services on the Cattaraugus Reservation. With specialized training in Full Spectrum Indigenous Doula support, Shavonne is committed to improving maternal health outcomes for Indigenous families. Through partnerships with Genesee County Community Doulas and Erie Niagara AHECs Birth Equity Project, she addresses disparities in access to doula care and strives to enhance the birth experience. Her compassionate, client-centered approach fosters a supportive environment for families during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period.



**ASHLEY LICKERS**

Ashley Lickers is a Haudenosaunee midwife working under the exemption from the Cayuga nation of Six Nations of the Grand River territory. She provided prenatal, perinatal, and postpartum care to Indigenous families across southern Ontario for years before turning her focus to Indigenous Midwifery Education. She now works to create community-based programming to bring midwifery education to communities across Turtle Island.

# Thank you for attending



## Please share your feedback and comments

connect with us at  
[smbs-inclusion@buffalo.edu](mailto:smbs-inclusion@buffalo.edu)

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