

Radical Restoration: Indigenous Health

Dr. Morse will outline the extensive influence of colonialism and the dominant European culture on the field of psychology which led to the subsequent mistreatment of Indigenous people. Second, she will explore how the colonial view of Indigenous people uses Indigenous cultural world views to pathologize Indigenous people. For example, in general, the bio-psycho-cultural underpinnings of altered states such as visual, auditory, or somatosensory messages are not covered as normative functioning but rather, hallucinations have been covered solely as symptoms of serious mental illness. Experiences of visions and waking dreams are often considered the same as hallucinations, which are pathognomonic symptoms and fail to account for cultural understandings of these phenomenon. This talk will explore the biological, psychological, and cultural basis of visions, waking dreams and hallucinations as normal manifestations of sensory states and will include case studies interpreted through the Blume paradigm of Native American Psychological Theory. Third is a proposal to use Indigenous Psychology principles, theories, and practices as a framework to improve the quality of all people's lives, a framework to guide changes which can help heal trauma, improve education and health, influence ethics, and recover the health of the environment.

References

- Blume, A. W. (2020). *A New Psychology Based on Community, Equality, and Care of the Earth: An Indigenous American Perspective*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.
- Blume, A.W.; Morse, G.S.; Love, C. (2020). Human Rights and Psychology from Indigenous Perspectives. In Rubin, N. S. & Flores R.L. (eds.) *The Cambridge Handbook of Psychology and Human Rights*. Cambridge: United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- Khetpal V.; Roosevelt J Jr.; Adashi EY. (2021) A Federal Indian Health Insurance Plan: Fulfilling a solemn obligation to American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States. *Prev Med* 16;25:101669. doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101669. PMID: 34976706; PMCID: PMC8688870.
- Trout, L.; Kramer, C.; & Fischer, L. (2018). Realizing the American Indian and Alaska Native Right to Health. *Health and Human Rights Journal* 20(2):19-30. PMID: 30568399; PMCID: PMC6293359.

Gayle Skawen:nio Morse, PhD
Professor and Licensed Psychologist

Dr. Morse is a Professor in Psychology and the Internship Director of the Mental Health Counseling and Community Psychology Program at Russell Sage College. For over 20 years, she has conducted research with American Indian communities and on the topic of Native Feminism. She is particularly excited about a publication (entitled “I Hear You in My Dreams”) in the journal *Studies of Gender and Sexuality*, Special Edition: Black, Indigenous, Women of Color Talk Back: Decentering Normative Psychoanalysis. Currently, she is working on the rewrite of the Psychology Ethics Code.

She is the Past President of the Society of Indian Psychologists, a fellow of Division 35 (Society for the Psychology of Women) and also received the Division 35, Section VI, Alaska Native/American Indian/Indigenous Women Sweet Grass Award for dedication and professionalism in service. She has served on the Women’s Caucus of the American Psychological Association (APA), and for seven years served on the Ethnic Psychological Association Council seat while laying the groundwork for the Native vote on APA council. She is also a fellow of APA Division 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race) and was the 2021 recipient of the Division 45 Joseph E. Trimble & Jewell E. Horvat Award: Distinguished Professional in Native/Indigenous Psychology.

She has several books, numerous book chapters and journal articles exploring Human Rights, Ethics, the health effects of neurotoxins on American Indian Health and Wellness, and neurotoxins treatment for Gulf War Veterans. She is an enrolled member of the Akwesasne Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) nation, and draws from the Tribe the principles of respect, trust, and empowerment that guide her both professionally and personally.