



American Indian Studies at 50
Red Tawks - Fall 2019

Sovereign Shields and State Violence in Indian Country

Tuesday, November 12
1:00-3:00 pm
Ethnic Studies Building 116

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American Indian/Alaska Native men and women are at significantly higher risk of being killed by police than are White men and women. American Indian/Alaska Native children also face dramatically higher risk of being separated from their families and placed into foster care than White children.

In this talk, we hypothesize and evaluate whether the sovereignty of tribal governments acts as a shield to protect American Indians and Alaska Natives at the hands of U.S. federal, state, and local government agencies. We use data on all police killings in the U.S. and all children removed into non-tribal foster care systems to show how institutions and the law affect risk. Our analysis shows that exposure to state violence is, in part, a function of federal Indian law and the strength of tribal legal institutions. Historically, sociology and the social sciences have overlooked the persistence and intersections of these social problems. We depart from this tradition and argue that colonial violence is not gone but has instead transformed and imprinted itself onto the lands and lives of Native Peoples in ways that researchers must responsibly address.

RSVP not required, but requested, to aismain@sfsu.edu. For more information, call Gabriela Segovia-McGahan, (415) 405-3928, or Joanne Barker, Professor and Chair, at jmbarker@sfsu.edu. Campus address: San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132. Campus maps, parking information, and directions available at <http://parking.sfsu.edu/visitor-information>.