

HEARING INDIGENOUS VOICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Symposium Speakers



Lorenda Belone

Dr. Belone, a Diné from Naakaii Bito' on the Navajo reservation, was recently promoted to full time professor at the University of New Mexico's College of Population Health. With 23 years of experience, Dr. Belone specializes in community-based participatory health research, where she addresses health disparities among southwestern tribal nations using an Indigenous paradigm.

Kimberly R. Huyser

Dr. Kimberly R. Huyser is an enrolled Tribal member of the Navajo Nation and was raised on the Navajo reservation in Arizona, USA. As a sociologist and Dine woman, her work and research are focused on the lives and opportunities of Indigenous population. She perceives CIEDAR as a chance to amplify the voices of Indigenous people and gain a deeper understanding of their experiences throughout the pandemic.



Cherryl Smith

Is a kaupapa Maori researcher researching the health needs and wellbeing of Maori. She completed a Post Doc on Maori grandparents raising mokopuna. Has completed over 25 years in kaupapa Maori research on Maori health and wellbeing and helped to establish one of the first independent Kaupapa Maori research institutes within Aotearoa.

Shannon Sanchez-Youngman

Dr. Sanchez-Youngman, a community-based participatory researcher, specializes in addressing Latino mental health disparities and health equity policy. With 20+ years of experience, she develops interventions to reduce social and health disparities among marginalized and racial/ethnic groups in the US. Her goal is to connect social science theories and methods with multi-level health intervention research.



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Jordan Derkson

Jordan Derkson is of white settler ancestry. Residing in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Jordan has been actively engaged as a research assistant with CIEDAR for the past year. Jordan perceives his role within CIEDAR as a valuable opportunity to not only gain insights into Indigenous perspectives, voices, and experiences but also to contribute towards amplifying those voices through research. Jordan is committed to learning and utilizing his position to uplift Indigenous voices and foster greater understanding through his work with CIEDAR.

Mary Jessome

Mary Jessome grew up in South Western Ontario by the Six Nations of Grand River. They view CIEDAR as a distinctive opportunity to collaborate with individuals who believe in research's potential to amplify Indigenous voices. As the research manager for CIEDAR, Mary eagerly anticipates utilizing research as a means to share the stories and experiences of the various communities partnered with by the organization.



Helena Rattray

Helena Rattray, a Kaipūtaiao Social Scientist at the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited, is dedicated to promoting Māori health and wellbeing in Aotearoa, New Zealand. With expertise in kaupapa Māori research, Helena focuses on reviving and preserving Iwi and hapū knowledge, working closely with Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa to address crucial Iwi goals. Helena is also pursuing a PhD, exploring Māori responses to colonial incarceration, aiming to contribute to Māori decarceration. Through her work, Helena aims to foster connections and empower communities with sustainable solutions for positive change.



Jasmine Sampson

Jasmine Sampson (Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī, Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Kuri) holds a PhD and a Master's in Māori and Pacific Development, and a Bachelors (Double Major) in Māori and Pacific Development and Psychology. She currently works as a researcher for Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, focusing on the 'Tangata Whenua, Tangata Ora' project. This initiative prioritizes Māori health and well-being by emphasizing the connection between people, the environment, and ancestral lands. Additionally, Jasmine actively contributes to marae, whānau, hapū, and iwi communities.

