

Jata yujstzyanhsa'kuy
Najsakopajk onpäjkuy
Greetings, Father Sun
We ask permission, Mother Earth
(Zoque, from Mesoamerica)

Dear members of our EPSM community,

Today, in Turtle Island ('North America') and the wider Abaya Yala ('the Americas'), we honor Indigenous Peoples' Day. Let us greet, celebrate and stand side-by-side with Indigenous peoples here and across Mother Earth.

Today is a reminder and celebration of the continuing [*survivance*](#) of Indigenous peoples and cultures.

Today is a reminder and celebration that Indigenous peoples persist even in the face of centuries of continuing colonial onslaught and genocide.

Today is a reminder and celebration that, like in the past, since 1492, Indigenous peoples continue to resist the acts of domination that are at the root of our grossly unjust 'modern' world.

Today is a reminder and celebration that, like in the past, since 1492, Indigenous peoples continue to resist the systems of exploitation that have driven Mother Earth to a potentially irreversible climate, biodiversity and planetary catastrophe impacting all our relatives, human and non-human.

Today is a reminder and celebration that, well before 1492, indeed, as the elders declare, since time immemorial, Indigenous worlds have embodied and continue to embody living sustainable alternatives based on millennia of intimate mutual nurturance with their ancestral lands and living territories, held sacred.

Today is a reminder and celebration that, like always, Indigenous survivance includes and goes beyond resisting the systems that brought so many crises: it is a living horizon of resurgence dedicated to reconstitute reciprocal communities of life based on the renewal of Mother Earth's regenerative cycles, the celebration of all our relations, and the nurturance of the land's diversity in its fullest vitality.

Moreover, today is a reminder and celebration that Indigenous resurgence has always been about decolonization and land rematriation which, in the words of Shawnee and Lenape scholar, Steve Newcomb, entails "restoring a living culture to its rightful place on Mother Earth," including her "sacred relationship with their ancestral lands, without external interference."

Finally, today is a restatement and declaration of a simple yet always crucial message: that there can be no future without Mother Earth, no Mother Earth without care, no care without justice, no justice without decolonization, and no decolonization without Indigenous resurgence.

Today, and everyday, let us work to honor, nurture and restore Indigenous worlds, lives, histories, struggles, projects, and territories, including the dispossessed Lenape lands on which The New School stands.

Today, let us honor, in particular, Indigenous elders, Indigenous women, Indigenous children and Indigenous land defenders. All of them stand strong against great violence, historically and in the present. All of them are keepers of Indigenous knowledges and heritages, defenders and caretakers of Indigenous territories, frontline actors in struggles for social, environmental, climate and global justice. And, beyond the systems that have brought death and destruction to Indigenous lives and lands, all are the living embodiments of the continuing vitality of life; the demonstration that another world has always been possible, and is already here in constant movement to resurge.

Suggested Resources:

Below, I share a small selection of links to Indigenous and our allied organizations, particularly from Turtle Island and Abya Yala (the Americas).

- International Indian Treaty Council: <https://www.iitc.org/>
- International Indigenous Women's Forum: <http://www.fimi-iiwf.org/index.php>
- Indigenous Environmental Network: <https://www.ienearth.org/>
- Center for World Indigenous Studies: <https://www.cwis.org/>
- Intercontinental Cry: <https://intercontinentalcry.org/>
- The Red Nation: <https://therednation.org/>
- Indigenous Action Media: <http://indigenousaction.org/>
- Congreso Nacional Indígena (México): <https://www.congresonacionalindigena.org/>
- First World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, Peoples' Agreement: <https://pwccc.wordpress.com/support/>
- Indigenous Climate Action: <https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com/>
- International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA): <https://www.iwgia.org/en/>

I re-share some resources concerning Indigenous Peoples Day, courtesy of our EPSM co-founded and co-led student organization, BIPOC Earth:

- [Activist's Guide for Supporting Indigenous Peoples' Day Toolkit](#) by IllumiNative
- [INDIGENIZE!](#) - A day long digital rally event to promote Indigenous food sovereignty. [All Day Schedule](#)
- [To Decolonize Our Minds, Start with Words](#) by Steven Newcomb (Shawnee/Lenape)
- [HESAPA](#) a LandBack Film by NDN Collective
- [Land Back Zine](#) by Regan de Loggans (Mississippi Choctaw/ K'iche' Maya) member of [Indigenous Kinship Collective](#)
- [What Standing Rock Teaches Us About Environmental Justice](#) by Jaskiran Dhillon (Treaty Six Cree Territory in Saskatchewan, Canada)
- [Decolonization is not a metaphor](#) by Eve Tuck (Unangax^ and enrolled member of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Alaska) and K. Wayne Yang
- [NDN Collective LANDBACK Campaign Launching on Indigenous Peoples' Day2020](#) by NDN Collective
- [Demand that NYC Recognize Indigenous People's Day](#). To Sign Petition [click here](#).
- Indigenous Peoples Day Events (page hosted by Cultural Survival): <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/celebrate-indigenous-peoples-day-2020>

Yuscotoya (Zoque) / Tlazocamatli (Nahuatl) / Thank you,

Leonardo E. Figueroa Helland, PhD

Associate Professor and Chair of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management (EPSM)

(<https://www.milanoschool.org/programs/epsm/>)

Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment (<https://www.milanoschool.org/>)

Indigeneity, Decolonization and Just Sustainability Section, Tishman Environment and Design Center

(<https://www.tishmancenter.org/indigeneity>)

The New School

New York, NY

figuerol@newschool.edu