**Wayne Wapeemukwa**

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**AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

**Areas of Specialization**

Social and Political Philosophy; Indigenous and Decolonial Theory; Philosophy of Race

**Areas of Competence**

19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy; German Idealism; Eco-Phenomenology

**Other Teaching Interests**

Applied Ethics

**EDUCATION**

PhD The Pennsylvania State University, Philosophy, 2018 – 2022 (expected)

MA The New School for Social Research, Philosophy, 2015 – 2017

Hon. BA The University of British Columbia, Philosophy and Political Science, 2009 – 2013

**DISSERTATION**

*Title:*

“Indigenizing the Commons: Indigenous Critiques of Socialism, Capitalism and Settler-Colonialism”

*Abstract:*

“For Indigenous nations to live, capitalism must die.”[[1]](#footnote-1) With this, Dene philosopher Glen Coulthard sought to unite anti-capitalism with Indigenous politics. The promise of socialism, however, seems to provide little space for Indigenous Peoples whose sovereignty conflicts with projects aiming to abolish private property. My study responds to this problem by clarifying the relationship of capitalism and settler-colonialism—a relationship which Indigenous detractors *and* defenders of Marx have mutually obscured through straw-men as well as neglecting those Marxists who have dealt most seriously with this problem.

To clarify the entanglement of the capital- and colonial-relation, this study focuses on the Indigenous Peoples of the northwest known as the Métis since they were *literally* born alongside the formation of capitalism in the nineteenth-century. To study them, it draws from Jamaican-born British cultural theorist Stuart Hall’s reanimation of historical materialism, which is presented as the most decisive application of Marx’s thought to the problematic of colonialism.

This dissertation has four chapters, each of which thematizes a different category within Marxism that has proved indispensable, yet problematic, when applied to Indigenous politics. The first interrogates capitalism’s relationship to colonialism through a reconstruction of Marx’s theory of primitive accumulation [*Ursprünglich Akkumulation*]. Against its common reception as a theory of historical change, I argue that, in settler-colonial contexts, primitive accumulation can only be conceived as an ahistorical structure of dispossession. Next, through a comparative reading of Coulthard and Métis militant Jim Brady, the second chapter probes the concept of organization with respect to the question of whether Indigenous Peoples should integrate or separate from the White working class. The third chapter pivots to Stuart Hall’s thesis that Black youth in Britain are racialized as a dominated ‘sub-class,’ and that this hierarchy is obscured by an ideology of ‘multiculturalism.’ By reconstructing Hall’s critique, I hope to improve Coulthard’s celebrated rejection of the ‘colonial politics of recognition.’ This sets up my final chapter where I question the concept of ‘pre-capitalist relations’ in Marxism vis-à-vis the Métis model of kinship known as ‘wahkootowin.’ I look to whakootowin as the means by which to explain historic and present Métis class-domination—a relation which I illuminate through a new conception of ‘class as kin.’

These four discussions offer two major contributions: a historically specific analysis of the Métis that can stand on its own and a philosophical and political-economic understanding of settler-colonialism and capitalism in general. Taken together, these two contributions evidence how historical materialism remains a rich, yet misunderstood, tradition for not only challenging capitalism but also settler-colonialism.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Referred Journal Articles**

2022 “Jettisoning ‘Racial Capitalism’ from Cedric Robinson to W.E.B. Du [R&R] Bois.” Revising and resubmitting to *Rethinking Marxism*.

2021 “Land, Water, Mathematics, and Relationships: What Does Creating Decolonizing and Indigenous Curricula Ask of Us?” in *Education Studies*, v.57, no. 3, pp. 345-363. Co-authored with Hollie Kulago. ([LINK](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00131946.2021.1892690))

**Non-Refereed Journal Articles**

Forthcoming “Decolonzing Environmental Bioregionalism,” in *Unsettled Environments*. Ed., Tom Lynch, April Anson, Kyle Keeler, and Isabel Lockhart. University of Minnesota Press

2021 “Oedipal Empire: Psychoanalysis, Indigenous Peoples, and

The Oedipus Complex in Colonial Context,” in *Lacan and Race: Racism, Identity and Psychoanalytic Theory.* Ed., Sheldon George and Derek Hook. Routledge Press. ([LINK](https://www.routledge.com/Lacan-and-Race-Racism-Identity-and-Psychoanalytic-Theory/George-Hook/p/book/9780367345976))

2020 “Contagion Castration: Lacan’s Extimacy and Fanon’s Sociogeny on

Anti-Indigenous Environmental Racism and COVID-19,” *Contours*, Issue 10 (Summer 2020) ([LINK](http://www.sfu.ca/humanities-institute/contours/issue10.html))

2018 “Parallaxes of Oedipal Violence,” *Rendering Unconscious*, Ed., Vanessa Sinclair. Trapart Books: Stockholm. In Print. ([LINK](https://store.trapart.net/details/00000))

2016 “Neighborly Love and the Trump Effect,” *Division/Review: A Quarterly Psychoanalytic Forum,* 14:4 (October).

**Translations**

2018 “The Vulnerability of the Ordinary: Goffman, Reader of Austin,” *The Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 39(2): 367-401. ([LINK](https://www.pdcnet.org/gfpj/content/gfpj_2018_0039_0002_0367_0401))

**SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS**

**The Pennsylvania State University**

2018-2023 Edwin Erle Sparks Doctoral Fellowship

2019-2022 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship

2021 Inter-Institutional Centre for Indigenous Knowledge, Whiting Award

2020 American Philosophical Society Philips Fund for Native American Research

**The New School University**

2015-2017 SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program Master’s Scholarships (declined)

2015-2017 The New School Provost’s Scholarship

2015-2017 Indspire Bursary for Indigenous Scholars

**The University of British Columbia**

2012-2013 Dean’s List

2008 Stö-Lo Nation Award of Excellence for Indigenous Students

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

2021 “On Solidarity,” Critical Theory Berlin Summer School, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, July 4-9

2019 Critical Theory Workshop / Atelier de Théorie Critique, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, France, June-July 2019

2019 Berlinale Talent Campus (Berlin International Film Festival Talent Lab)

2019 “Indigenous Feminisms,” Decolonial Feminism Workshop, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, May 14-17

2018 “On Ideology,” Critical Theory Berlin Summer School, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, July 16-20

2011 Semester study-abroad in “Études Politiques,” Institut d’Études Politiques de Grenoble, Sciences-Po. Grenoble, France, Spring.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2022 “‘Racial Capitalism’ from Cedric Robinson to W.E.B. Du Bois,” American Philosophical Association (APA), Eastern Division, Baltimore, MD, Jan. 5-8

2021 “Critiquing Coulthard: National Culture, Jim Brady, and Métis Marxism,” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 59th Annual Meeting, virtual due to COVID-19, Sept. 23-26

2021 “Indigenous Femicide as Settler-Colonial Reproductive Futurism,” P sychology and the Other, virtual due to COVID-19, September 17-19

2021 Invited respondant to Jennifer Szende’s “Territorial Rights, Relational Value, Climate Change,” APA, Eastern Division, New York, NY, Jan. 4-7

2021 “Settler Desire: Settler Colonialism and the Desire for Land,” LACK iv, Annual Meeting, University of Vermont, April 30-May 2

2020 “Métis Scrip as Settler-Colonial Primitive Accumulation,” Association for Political Theory Conference, University of Massachusetts, Nov. 12-14

2020 “Decolonizing Primitive Accumulation,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, Toronto, ON, May 7-9 (cancelled due to COVID-19)

2020 Invited respondent to Alex R. Steers-McCrum, “Here, We Are: A Native American Relational Social Ontology,” APA, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA. Jan. 8-11

2020 “Critical Theory and Settler-Colonialism,” Northwestern Graduate Critical Theory Conference, April 24-25 (cancelled due to COVID-19)

2019 “‘Half-Breed Scrip’ and Marx’s Theory of Primitive Accumulation,” Historical Materialism, London, UK, Nov. 7-10

2019 “Métis Racialization and the Formation of Whiteness,” The Canadian Philosophical Association, June 1-7

2019 “Métis Racialization in Treaty Era Canadian Prairies,” Diverse Lineages of Existentialism II, George Washington University, June 3-5

2019 “Neither White nor Ward: Métis Resistance and Racialization,” Political Epistemologies Conference, Villanova University, March 15-16

2018 “Adorno and Lacan on Sade: Lacan’s ‘Ethics of The Real’ and Adorno’s ‘New Categorical Imperative,’” The Annual Critical Theory Roundtable, University of Massachusetts, Nov. 2-4

2016 “Cinema and Settler-Colonialism,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Harvard University, March 17-20

2015 “Contradictions of Métis Racialization,” Hyphenated Identities Conference, Dec. 4

**TEACHING**

**Instructor, The Pennsylvania State University**

2021 Spring Graduate Seminar in “Indigenous Philosophy,” co-facilitated with Dr. Eduardo Mendieta

2020 Fall “Black and Indigenous Liberation,” PHIL 4: The Human Condition

2020 Fall “Racism, Capitalism, and Colonialism,” PHIL 9: Race, Racism, Diversity

2020 Summer “Ethical Leadership,” PHIL 5: Ethics

2020 Spring “Cinema and Collective Responsibility,” PHIL 2: Film and Philosophy

**Teaching Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University**

2020 Fall The Philosophy of Love and Sex (Nancy Tuana)

**Special Education Instructor, Thomas’s Academy, London, UK**

2016-2017 Kindergarten, Year 3, and 1:1 Support in Special Education

**English Language Instructor, Commission Scholaire du Fer, Sept-Îles, QC**

2014-2015 High-School English Language Instructor, Odyssey Program

**Student Director**

2012 Fall “Marx’s *Capital*,” University of British Columbia Student Directed Seminar

**Invited Lectures**

2017 “Hybrid Cinema and Racialization,” Eugene Lang College, Dr. Chiara Bottici, The New School University, New York, USA. March 30

2016 “Lacan’s Mirror Stage and the ‘Imaginary Indian’” Eugene Lang College, Dr. Chiara Bottici, The New School University, New York, USA. Feb. 25

2014 “Introduction to Lacan,” University of British Columbia, Dr. Steven Taubeneck. 14 March.

**PROFFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS**

**The Pennsylvania State University**

2019-present Indigenous Peoples Student Association, Penn State

2020 Volunteer GED Tutor, Quehanna Bootcamp, Student Restorative Justice Initiative

2019 Student Volunteer, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 58th General Meeting at Penn State

**The New School University**

2015-2016 New School Lacan Salon, founder

**Professional Memberships**

American Philosophical Society (APS)

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA-ACP)

Berlinale Talents (Berlin Film Festival Talent Lab Alumnus)

American Philosophical Association (APA)

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups (APW)

**RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT**

2016-2017 Research Assistant (Simon Critchley), Department of Philosophy, New School University, NY, USA

2013 Research Assistant (Michael Griffin), Department of Classical Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

**LANGUAGES**

French (fluent)

Michif (intermediate)

German (reading)

**GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

All courses in Philosophy unless otherwise indicated

\* = audit

**Ancient/Medieval Philosophy**

Reading Greek Tragedy (Simon Critchley)

Tragedy’s Philosophy (Simon Critchley)\*

The Pythagorean Women Philosophers (Christopher Moore)

**Early Modern Philosophy**

Spinoza (Chiara Bottici)\*

**German Idealism**

Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason (Jay Bernstein)

Kant on Freedom and Normativity (Omri Boehm)\*

Kant’s Practical Philosophy (Uygar Abaci)\*

Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit (Brady Bowman)

**19th-20th Century Philosophy**

Wittgenstein (Alice Crary)

Heidegger, Nihilism, Metaphysics (Simon Critchley)

The Basic Works of Freud (Alan Bass)

Deleuze and Schizoanalysis (Chiara Bottici)

Freudians and Post-Freudians (Alan Bass)

Deleuze (Len Lawlor)\*

**Contemporary Philosophy**

Aesthetics (Mariana Ortega)

Ethics (Robert Bernasconi)\*

Critical Eco-Phenomenology (Ted Toadvine)

**Social and Political Philosophy**

Hannah Arendt: Politics and Philosophy (Richard Bernstein)

Gender and Domination (Chiara Bottici)

The Case for Critique: Wittgenstein and Critical Theory (Alice Crary and Rahel Jaeggi)

Critical Theory (Amy Allen)

Marxism (Amy Allen)

Rousseau (John Christman)\*

**Philosophy of Race and Decolonial Philosophy**

Philosophy of Race (Robert Bernasconi)

Decolonial Critical Theory (Eduardo Mendieta)

History and Philosophy of Race in Latin American (Eduardo Mendieta)

Mestiza Feminist Philosophy: Anzaldúa, Sandoval, and Alarcón (Mariana Ortega)

**Indigenous Studies**

Indigenous and Decolonizing Pedagogy (Hollie Kulago)

Readings in Native American History (Julie Reed)

**DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY**

**Luk’Luk’I** (feature / 2017)

World Premiere: Toronto International Film Festival, Winner: Best Canadian First Feature Film

Winner: Discovery Prize - Director's Guild of Canada

Vancouver International Film Festival, Winner: Best BC Film

Festival du Nouveau Cinéma

Los Cabos International Film Festival –– Official Selection

TIFF Top 10 Canadian Film of 2017

Seattle International Film Festival

Molodist Kyiv International Film Festival

Edinburgh International Film Festival

Présence Autochtone Montréal

Queer Lisboa, Lisbon Portugal

Northwest Filmmakers' Festival, Oregon USA

Harm Reduction Coalition Film Festival, New Orleans USA

**SRORRIM** (short / 2016 / Arri 2K)

DOXA International Documentary Film Festival

Vancouver International Film Festival, Runner-Up: Best BC Short Film

Dawson City International Short Film Festival, Winner: Best Film, Lodestar Award

LEO Awards 2017 Nominee: Best Short Documentary

Atlin Arts and Music Festival

**Balmoral Hotel** (short / 2015 / Film 35mm)

Toronto International Film Festival Top 10 Canadian Short Films

Skábmagovat Film Festival, Finland

Jayu Human Rights Film Festival

Portland International Film Festival

Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian Native Cinema Showcase

Vancouver International Film Festival

Cinema Politica First Peoples First Screens

Glasgow International Short Film Festival

Flaming Arrow Inter-Tribal Film Festival

Mispon Film Festival

LEO Awards 2016 Nominee: Best Short Film

**Luk’Luk’I : Mother** (short / 2014 / 2K)

Toronto International Film Festival

Vancouver International Film Festival

Hamburg International Short Film Festival

Jayu Human Rights Film Festival

Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival

Local Sightings Film Festival

Imagine NATIVE Film Festival

LEO Awards 2015 Winner: Short Film & Best Director

**REFERENCES**

[*Amy Allen*](https://philosophy.la.psu.edu/people/ara17/)

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Advancement in the College of the Liberal Arts

The Pennsylvania State University

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University Park, PA 16802

Email: [ara17@psu.edu](http://ara17@psu.edu)

[*Eduardo Mendieta*](https://philosophy.la.psu.edu/people/ezm5325/)

Professor of Philosophy

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Email: [ezm5325@psu.edu](http://ezm5325@psu.edu)

[*Julie Reed*](https://history.la.psu.edu/directory/julie-reed/)

Associate Professor in History

The Pennsylvania State University

214 Weaver Building

University Park, PA 16802

Email: [jlr6454@psu.edu](http://jlr6454@psu.edu)

1. Coulthard, Glen (2014) *Red Skin White Masks: Rejecting The Colonial Politics of Recognition.* UP of Minnesota. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)